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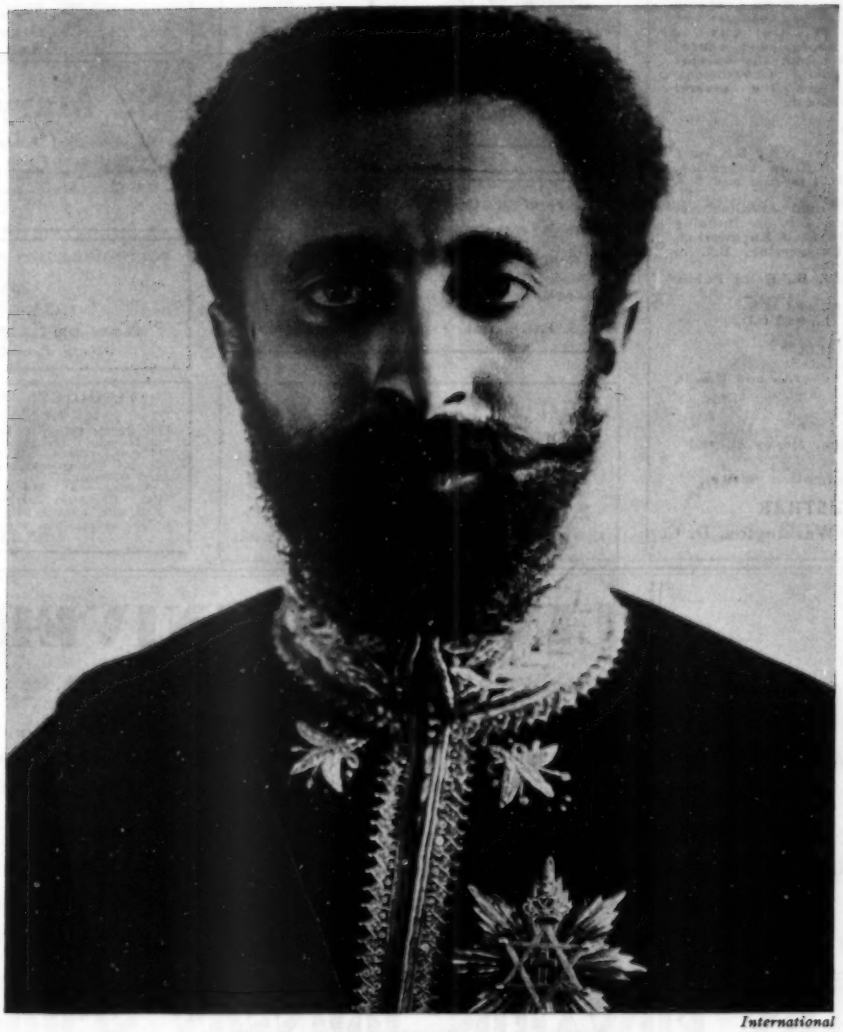

International

ETHIOPIA'S KING OF KINGS

(Prey for Il Duce?—See page 38)

ITALY OVER ABYSSINIA

BY J. A. ROGERS

HUEY LONG TALKS ON NEGROES

BY ROY WILKINS

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A Record of the Darker Races

ROY WILKINS, Managing Editor
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Volume 42, No. 2 Whole No. 290

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NEXT MONTH

Another article on Abyssinia, by Makonnen Hailé, a young Abyssinian, who has just been graduated from New York University.

●

Further information on Jim Crow in Oberlin, O., the famous Underground Railroad Station, by Shirley Graham.

●

A revealing discussion of the evils of company unions as illustrated by a plant in Chicago which hires Negro girls, by Thyra J. Edwards.

●

A letter from London on Liberia.

●

A cartoon by Romare Bearden dealing with National Recovery and the Negro.

●

News of the N.A.A.C.P., poems, book reviews and news items.

●

COMING SOON: "The Bronx Slave Market," an article on the treatment of domestic servants in the Bronx, New York City.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

J. A. Rogers is an author, lecturer and world traveller, the author of many works dealing with the Negro in world history and of that valuable little pamphlet, "100 Amazing Facts About the Negro."

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Italy Over Abyssinia

By J. A. Rogers

Ethiopia, with its rich deposits of minerals and oil, has excited the greed of European nations for years. Italy has made the latest move in the direction of the African kingdom. Mr. Rogers, writer, lecturer and world traveler, who lived in Europe for eight years and attended the coronation of the Abyssinian emperor in 1930, analyzes the situation in Northeastern Africa

THE present dispute between Italy and Abyssinia has already caused two fatal clashes: one at the Italian consulate at Gondar where one Italian was killed and two wounded, and the other at Walwal, in which 200 Ethiopians and 30 Italians were reported slain. Abyssinia has made apology and reparation for the first. The second is clearly an Italian aggression as Walwal is sixty miles within the Ethiopian border. Italy has been occupying this area against Ethiopian protest. The recent discovery of oil there has spurred the Abyssinians to oust the Italians.

Both clashes, it will be noted, have occurred on Abyssinian soil, the first to the north, the second to the southeast. The inner details, however, will probably not be known until they are aired at Geneva. But even a superficial knowledge of this East African quarrel predicts that the League of Nations will be faced with the toughest nut in its history, that is, if the disputants mean to act as defiantly as they talk. For if Geneva succeeds in cracking the outer shell it will find within a kernel of dynamite, namely Japan.

Let us trace very briefly the first contacts of Italy and Abyssinia. Italy, coming late into the race for Africa, picked up land that neither France nor England cared for, namely Tripolitania, Eritrea, and Southern Somaliland, all three of which are rocky, broiling desert, and are great liabilities. Italy, like Japan, yearns for territory in which to colonize her teeming and rapidly increasing millions. But none of the three colonies named is really suitable for Europeans.

Last of Ungobbled Africa

As it happened, however, two of these, Eritrea and Southern Somaliland, lay, the first to the north, the second to the southeast, of Abyssinia, which, in all respects, was just the kind of territory which Italy craved. Its soil, climate, and mineral resources were famed of old. Its uplands with their light frost in winter and sunny, salubrious climate the year round, were particularly desirable. Moreover it was three times larger than Italy itself. Being near home and with millions of blacks to exploit, it permitted Italian expansion of the most favorable kind.

For reasons that will be given later on, neither France nor England had seized Abyssinia though England probably could have done so in 1868 when she penetrated to Magdala. It was, in short, the last bit of Africa left ungobbled by Europe.

Italy, settling in the regions named, spun her web. She began by lending the Emperor Menelik $1,000,000 for which she received the Asmara region and a promise that Menelik would make no treaties with the other powers without her consent. Abyssinia soon discovered that this treaty was against her and diplomatic bickering followed. Then came an open break about 1894 when Menelik, instituting a postal service, had a stamp struck with his own effigy. Italy, who had not been consulted, resented this show of independence on the part of the black monarch. High words followed. Count Crispi, then Italian Premier, seized the occasion to reach out for his heart's desire. He invaded Abyssinia, and seized as hostages three Ethiopian princes who were studying in Switzerland.

The Italians won at first. Flushed with this victory, which was magnified into a triumph, the Italian Parliament decided on the annexation of the ancient kingdom. It voted $4,000,000 to carry on the war and sent out 25,000 men, under General Barateri.

But Menelik, meanwhile, had been rousing and uniting the warring elements within his newly won empire. They responded 120,000 strong, armed mostly with spears, under the command of Ras Makonnen, a born commander and strategist, who from then on simply outwitted Barateri. Crispi, wishing to strengthen his ministry by a coup, accused Barateri of "military rheumatism" and demanded of him "a decisive victory."

Victory at Adowa

Faced by Ras Makonnen, Barateri was then in a most precarious position. Nevertheless on February 29, 1896, Barateri, seeing what seemed an unguarded hill dominating the Ethiopian position, advanced with his 20,000 men to seize it. But this was a trap prepared by the astute Makonnen. No sooner had the Italians shifted to the valley than the 120,000 Ethiopians engulfed them. Packed tightly in the narrow pass, and almost unable to use their arms, the Italians were speared like sheep. Less than 3,000 of them straggled back to Italian territory. This was the battle of Adowa.

The prisoners, following an Ethiopian custom of fifty centuries, were castrated. Italy, beaten by what she regarded as a horde of black savages, was keenly humiliated. Crispi was mobbed and driven from office, and the Italian soldiers mutinied rather than go to Africa. When General Balciderra, Barateri's successor, declared that it would take 250,000 men, five years, and $1,100,000,000 to be revenged, Italy was glad to make a treaty that galled her proud Latin spirit.

Is it any wonder, then, that Italian desire for Abyssinia has increased with the years? Certainly Mussolini's envoys at the great military review held in honor of the coronation of the Emperor Haile Selassie at Addis Ababa in 1930 must have told Il Duce how the fiery Ethiopian warriors in the homage to the throne had vaunted how they had slain and gelded the Italians. Every Abyssinian knows that Italy means to seize their country if she can and is aroused against her.

What now of England and France? It was commonly reported that both had agreed to give Mussolini a free hand against Abyssinia. But even the merest knowledge of the situation will show that neither is likely to risk this. In fact, Premier Laval, in his recent conference with Mussolini denied this, and declared that Italy, herself, was pledged like Britain and France, to guarantee Ethiopian independence.

English and French Interests

England's interest in Abyssinia is a very vital one. Fantastic as it sounds, Britain's fate is intricately bound up with that of this black empire. In the Abyssinian highlands amid surroundings of rare tropical beauty is a lake from which the Abai, or Blue Nile, rises. This is Lake Tsana. British territory to the north and all of Egypt is absolutely dependent upon this river. Egypt, it cannot be too emphatically stressed, is the Nile. Hence the diverting of this outlet of Lake Tsana—which is possible—would cause the greatest imaginable disaster to the Anglo-Egyptian Soudan

and Egypt. In 1902 England made a treaty with Ethiopia over this lake. Thus in 1927 when an American firm was merely awarded a contract to build a dam there in order to regulate its flow it caused great alarm in London.

Egypt and the Suez Canal are of the utmost strategic importance to the welfare of the British Empire. England has 15,000 of her own soldiers stationed there. Why? Because that is the route to India, and India constitutes two-thirds of her empire. Were Italy to grow strong in the Red Sea, as she would be if she owned Abyssinia, how easily she would be able to cut off England from her prize possession! England certainly wants no strong rival in the Red Sea, and for this reason may be counted on not to support serious Italian aspiration in the Northeastern Africa.

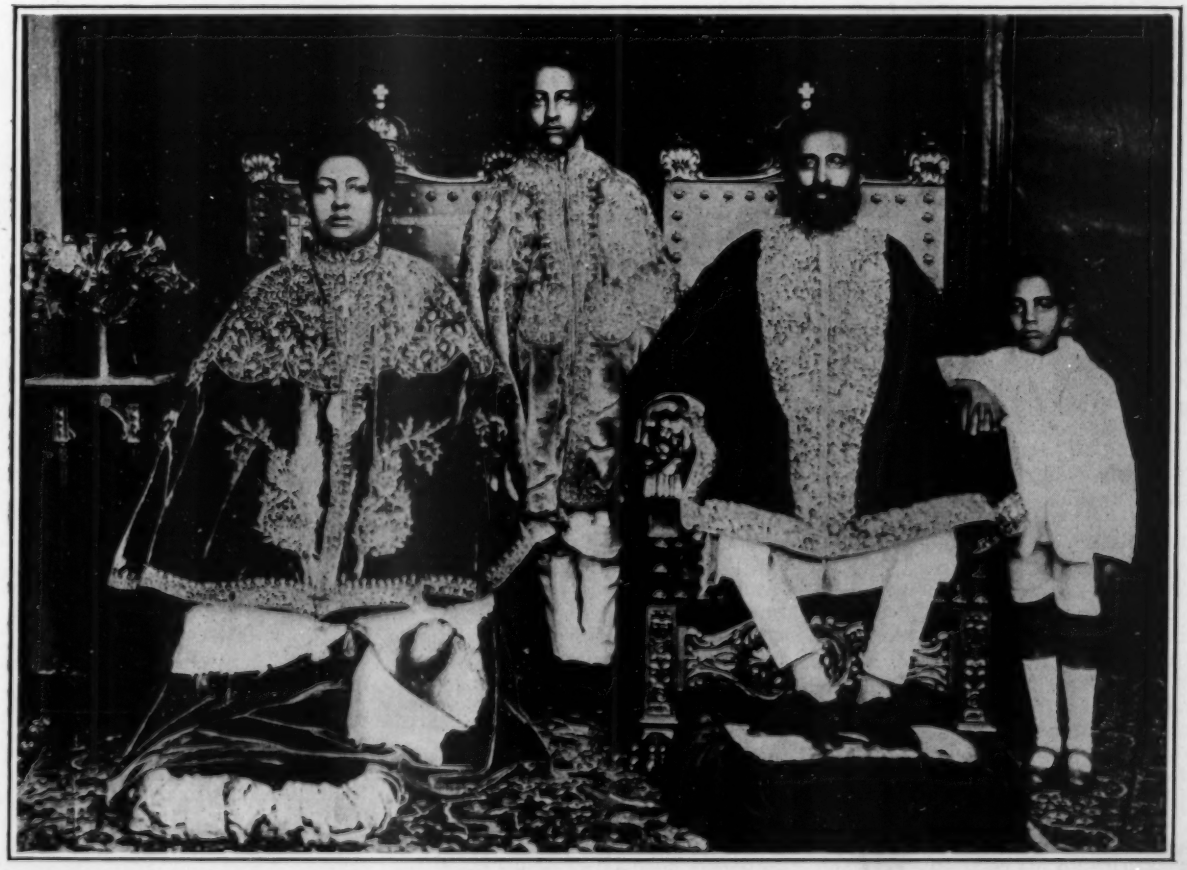
The same for a different cause is true of France. She and Italy are commercial rivals in this region. Italy has actually given Abyssinia a free port and zone at Assab to the north in competition with the French port of Djibuti to the south, at which latter place the Ethiopians must pay duty on all their exports and imports. Djibuti, which is one terminus of the Franco-Ethiopian railway, is now absolutely dependent upon Abyssinian trade for its existence. It is moreover an important link with France's Far Eastern colonies. Would France be willing to risk the decline of this port, as she would, by aiding the rise of Italy? Moreover there is the 500 miles of railroad to Addis Ababa, half of which is owned by France and the rest by Abyssinia. Italy is eager to connect her northern and her southern colonies by a railway running through Abyssinia, but she is blocked by an agreement that France made with Menelik against railroad concessions to other nations. As late as 1925, England and Italy secretly divided Abyssinia into spheres of commercial influence to the detriment of France. The latter made strenuous protest to Geneva, and both MacDonald and Mussolini stuttered explanations and backed down. French influence prevails at Addis Ababa. Would France be likely to relinquish that in favor of Italy?

Outpost of Christianity

Again France and Italy are thinly-veiled enemies. Both were very near war in 1931–32. France's Italian border is as heavily fortified as her German one is. Mussolini has his eye on the Nice-Mentone area in the French Riviera. This was ceded to Napoleon III by Italy, and Italy has never become reconciled to the loss. Now the possession of Abyssinia would increase enormously the power of Italy in Europe. Are not the French statesmen likely to foresee this? Those who think highly of the Laval-Mussolini warblings might well recall the fate of the Hitler-Mussolini ones of last October.

But independent of all the above-mentioned facts England and France have always been eager to preserve the sovereignty of the King of Kings of Ethiopia. In addition to the European problem in East Africa, there is a pressing native one: Mohammedanism against Christianity. Now Abyssinia has been a Christian Verdun against Mohammedism for the past eleven hundred years. Once past Abyssinia and the Mohammedans would have swept the whites out of East Africa, especially so in 1885–89 under their great Mahdi. As late as 1916, while Europe was at war, an attempt was made to turn Ethiopia to Mohammedanism. The Mad Mullah, a Mohammedan Negro of

(*Continued on page* 50)



The Royal Family of Ethiopia

The Farmer

By Violet G. Haywood

The author of this story writes that it is a true incident and says "lynching . . . attracts nation-wide attention, yet which is more terrible and soul-grinding, the big tragedies, or these mere 'incidents'?"

"SO you don't want to sell, huh, Jim? I'll give you good money—enough for you to go up Nawth and be with yo' boy. You can do the same thing that us white folks kin do up Nawth!"

He spat viciously. "Reckon you'd rather do that than stay down here and work a little old farm like this?" Mr. Hilton laughed heartily, condescendingly. This was the way! Talk about that boy of his. He would make him sell.

"Well?" he queried when Jim remained silent.

"I—reckon I don't want to sell, Mr. Hilton." Haltingly, yet firmly Jim replied.

(God-damn you!! God-damn nigger——)

"But why? Why?" Mr. Hilton's voice rose shrilly. He looked cuttingly at Jim out of the corner of his eye. Did he, could he know? But that was impossible. This stupid black fool, he could *not* know!

"Remember I allus deal fair with good niggers, Jim, and you're one of the best. Reckon you are more like a white man than any nigger I heard tell of." He slapped Jim on the back and wondered vaguely at that queer fire that flashed in his eyes for an instant.

"Yes sir, Mister Hilton, yes sir——"

"You'll sell?" Jim heard the exultant note in the white man's voice.

Jim looked over his little farm. The cotton crop had been sparse; the land was so poor! Three bales of cotton the land had given him; not much, but enough to buy food and clothes for Mandy and him. Maybe next year—. Three bales home from the gin-mill, seeded and all ready to be sold. His very own! Not much, compared with other farms but—his own bales! under the shed of his barn. His farm! his cotton, his! Yet, how could he say all this, how could he tell anyone?

"No sir"—A dream come true—all his life he had worked, *slaved*, prayed. This was his prayer. A little farm of his own. Mandy had worked by his side (faithful, oh! faithful). His dream, her dream, their dream. Go North and live with his son? Cooped up in the city away from the sun and the wind and the sod? But this was his. He and Mandy belonged here.

"You mean you ain't gonna sell?" Mr. Hilton broke in upon his thoughts. Jim looked into his cold, blue eyes and suddenly was afraid. Why should this man want to take his farm from him?

"No-sir."

Without another word the white man turned on his heel.

"You'll get out," he thought. I'll run you out. What would a nigger do with oil! Black ——"

Jim was sorry about Mr. Hilton. He didn't like to cross any white folks, and seldom did. But he would not sell his farm. He looked over his little farm; standing with his face to the sun. "This," he thought, "is mine. Why should I sell it?" He picked up his bucket and went to milk the cows.

At supper that night he told Mandy about it.

"You was right, Jim," she said, as he had known she would say. Reckon this is ours and we don't want to sell."

"But it's little and po', Mandy. Maybe we could do better up No'th——" Mandy stopped short, the spoon ladened with black-eyed peas halted in mid-air.

"What ails you, Jim, honey?" she looked anxiously at him, but Jim avoided her eyes. He himself could not have said what the trouble was.

"You know yo' self, Jim, that we wouldn't like no city. This here is ours, and we ain't never going to leave it! Come on now, it's gettin' late and tomorrow is Sunday."

Jim sat a while and smoked his old corn-cob pipe while Mandy did the dishes. Then, tired out by the day's work, Mandy went to bed, leaving Jim alone with his pipe.

Sleep refused to come to Jim immediately. He turned and tossed until Mandy began to stir sleepily. Then he forced himself to lie still and close his eyes tightly. Finally sleep did come and with it bad dreams. He dreamed that he was trying to hide from Mr. Hilton, but always the cold blue eyes would find him. Only the eyes were no longer cold. They were hot and searing and a peculiar smoke came from them.

JIM and Mandy went to church the next day. Their buggy was old and somewhat inclined to rattle; the horse, tired and slow. The ride from their little farm "in town" to church was long, but they didn't mind.

Mandy sang in the choir and Jim was proud of her deep, sweet voice. He patted his foot in time with her song, his shoes making little squeaky noises. He kept himself awake during the long service by crying "Amen" now and then.

After the service he noticed the "sisters" speaking to Mandy with much respect. "It's because of our farm!" he thought proudly.

THEY saw it before they got there. Almost at the same instant their eyes spied it and together they pointed and exclaimed, "Look!"

Great clouds of smoke rose from their shed and curled gracefully toward the heavens, eventually losing themselves in thin, blue lines. Flame, great licking, hungry tongues reared themselves, growing larger and more cruel. Jim jumped from the wagon and broke into a run across his field of cotton stalks. When Mandy finally arrived after having urged the horse to his poor fastest, Jim was fighting the fire madly, bravely and hopelessly. How can a man fight fire without water? Mandy hurried to his aid, but realizing the utter hopelessless of the situation they stood helplessly by, watching with sad eyes and bleeding hearts, the rapid disappearance of their three bales of cotton. Food for the winter, clothes, freedom from debt—Ah! Jesus!

"I HEARD tell of yo' misfortune, Jim and sho' am sorry about it." This was Mr. King. Jim had come to him to borrow money. Mr. King was sitting with his feet on the banister of his porch. He was a nice white man. He let colored folks sit down on his porch with him. He was silent a long time then—"But I can't lend you no money," he said.

"I kin pay it all back to you next fall after cotton time, Mr. King"——

"Well—I can't do it, Jim. Sorry!"

Jim rose to go. He twisted his hat nervously.

"Well," he said, a smile on his lips but a groan in his heart, "thank you, jess the same, Mr. King—Good-night, sir—. As he began to walk away Mr. King called after him as if on second thought:

"I'd buy yo' farm from you, Jim."

"No, no, Mr. King, I reckon I'll get along!"

(*Continued on page* 50)

Huey Long Says—

An Interview With Louisiana's Kingfish

By Roy Wilkins

CONTRARY to my expectations, I had no difficulty getting an interview with Senator Huey P. Long, the Kingfish, Dictator of the State of Louisiana, aspirant to the Presidency in 1936. I reasoned that nothing more serious could happen than a refusal to see me, especially since the location was New York and not Baton Rouge or New Orleans, so up to the twenty-fifth floor of the Hotel New Yorker I took myself.

Two things I wanted to know, if the Kingfish would talk: what was he going to do about the lynching which had been staged the day before in Franklinton, La.; and what hope did his "share-the-wealth" program hold out for Negro Americans?

It is a certainty that I am not as important as a German naval captain and since Huey had received that worthy some years ago in green pajamas, I could not complain when he received me in maroon silk pajamas.

They All Look the Same in the Morning

It developed that in calling at 9:30 I had arrived just about as the senator was rising. After a bit he came into the room barefooted and bawling for breakfast to be ordered. He shook hands with all of us present, hesitating not a bit when he came to the only Negro. The dictator's hair was tousled; sleep was in his eyes; the pajamas added the only bright note. All men, I thought, dictators or not, look pretty much the same in the morning. After an hour and a quarter of waiting my turn came.

Through a sitting room, past a bathroom and into the bedroom of the "Dictator of the Delta." There he was, barefoot still, in pajamas still, bending over his bed on which were spread nine or ten shirts from which he was trying to make a selection.

"Sit down," he invited, plunging right in, "you know I came up here to see a show, to get a little fun away from the senate, but I haven't done a thing but see newspapermen."

"Well, Senator, I would like to ask you just a few questions," I began.

"Sure. Let me tell you about the nigras," he interrupted. In the first two minutes I found out Huey does all the talking and that he uses "nigger," "nigra," and occasionally "colored," but mostly "nigger."

No attempt has been made by the writer to polish up the language of Senator Long or to smooth over the offensive word, "Nigger." This is the interview just as the Kingfish gave it; any other would be what we thought our readers ought to have instead of the real thing. The Crisis believes this is the first interview secured directly from Senator Long by a Negro reporter for a Negro publication

No Voting—No, Sir!

"One of them newspapers (he hates newspapers) yesterday tried to put me on the spot about niggers voting. You saw it? Why, say, I ain't gonna get into that fight. They don't vote in the South—you from the South?—well, they don't vote down there, so why should I go into that? I have been able to do a hell of a lot of things down there because I am Huey Long—they know I'm square; a lot of guys would have been murdered politically for what I've been able to do quietly for the niggers. But do you think I could get away with niggers voting? No sirree! These newspapers are trying to jam me!"

"But, Senator——" I tried to edge in. No use. The flood continued while he shook out some tooth powder and hunted his toothbrush:

"Lissen here. My educational program is for everybody, whites and blacks. I can't have my people ignorant. Louisiana had a high illiteracy rate, couldn't read or write. I mean whites couldn't either, but there were more among the niggers. (I thought of the figures for education in Louisiana and thought to say a word, but no one could stem that tide of words from him; anyway I was here for an interview, not for an argument.) When I became governor I said 'this has gotta stop.' I gave 'em school books free at the state's expense. I started free schools, day and night, so they could learn to read and write and figger.

His Blow at Peonage

"Maybe you think that was easy in the case of the niggers. There are plenty of ignorant white people with hatred in their hearts from the war between the states. They did not want the niggers to go to school. That was tough on me. They said their niggers had to work. So what did I do? I opened night schools. They kept on hollering and I simply had to put my foot down. I said (beating his breast) 'I'm the governor and I say the ignorant in this state have to learn, blacks as well as whites.' And they learned."

"Yes, but—" I made another effort. He merely took another swipe with his toothbrush and drove on, cocking a shrewd eye at me as I stood at the door of the green and black bathroom:

"Now, young man, you can see some things without me writing them down. I'm not working for equality or anything like that. I figger when you teach niggers to read and write and figger they can kinda look out for themselves—you know, people can't cheat them like they did before. You know they cheat them, don't you? (Did I?) Why, (and here he grew confidential, drawing a diagram on the dresser with his toothbrush handle) down home we have plantations ten miles long and five miles wide. They have a system that's lawful but bad for the niggers. Maybe when a nigger tenant got through working at the end of the year he had enough to buy the baby a rattle for Christmas and maybe not. That ain't right. I taught 'em to figger. They got to look out for themselves. Maybe you think it didn't raise hell among the landlords. . . ."

Lynching "Slipped Up" on Him

He paused to read a telegram and answer the telephone (incidentally in very correct English) and I managed to get in a question:

"How about lynching, Senator? About the Costigan-Wagner bill in congress and that lynching down there yesterday in—"

He ducked the Costigan-Wagner bill, but of course, everyone knows he is against it. He cut me off on the Franklinton lynching and hastened in with his "pat" explanation:

"You mean down in Washington parish (county)? Oh, that? That one slipped up on us. Too bad, but those slips will happen. You know while I was governor there were no lynchings and since this man (Gov. Allen) has been in he hasn't had any. (There have been 7 lynchings in Louisiana in the last two years.) This one slipped up. I

(*Continued on page* 52)

Sentiment on Anti-Lynching Bill

I may say that I am in favor of anti-lynching legislation and when such a bill is brought before the House I will give it most careful attention.

—THOMAS O'MALLEY, Wisconsin

I beg to assure you that this measure will have my hearty cooperation and support and I sincerely hope that it will be enacted in the law at the earliest possible moment.

JOHN G. COOPER, Ohio

I am not familiar with the Costigan-Wagner bill to which you refer, and am never able to make a decided statement about a bill until I know what it is, and hear it discussed in Congress. In general, I do not favor taking over by the Federal Government of responsibilities and duties which should be assumed by the states.

SCHUYLER MERRITT, Connecticut

I have your letter of the 14th and I am glad to advise you that I heartily favor the anti-lynching bill. I shall vote for it if the Democratic administration permits it to come to a vote during the next session of Congress.

D. LANE POWERS, New Jersey

Should the 74th Congress bring in an anti-lynching bill, I shall be very pleased to support it.

WILLIAM I. SIROVICH, New York

I am in favor in general of an anti-lynching bill. I am not much familiar with the Costigan-Wagner bill. I am familiar with the bills which Mr. Tinkham has introduced for many years.

JOHN TABER, New York

In response will say that you may rest assured that I shall be pleased to support the proposed Wagner-Costigan bill which is to be introduced in the new session of Congress.

THOS. H. CULLEN, New York

I have your letter of inquiry and would say, I have always deplored lynching and shall be glad to help in any legislation which I believe would banish this relic of the ancient days.

JOSEPH W. MARTIN, JR.,
Massachusetts

In reply, please be advised that I am against lynching and believe it should be stopped, and therefore, you can be assured that I shall vote for legislation of this nature.

JAMES M. FITZPATRICK, New York

In answering your letter of November 14th advise that I have heretofore supported anti-lynching bills, and voted for the Dyer Bill. My views on this subject have not changed.

GEORGE P. DARROW, Pennsylvania

Many senators and representatives could not be reached by The Crisis right after the November 6 elections, but here are some of the replies received to our question on support of a federal anti-lynching bill. Are your representatives' names written here?

In reply to your letter of the 14th inst., I wish to assure you that I am heartily in accord with the principles of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, and shall work and vote for its passage.

JOSEPH A. GAVAGAN, New York

I have your letter of November 14th and in reply thereto I beg to say that I will be very glad to support the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill or any measure of a similar character if introduced in the 74th Congress.

JOHN J. BOYLAN, New York

It is my invariable custom to refrain from expressing advance opinions on matters likely to come before Congress. If legislation of the nature referred to is taken up for action in the House during the 74th Congress, you may be assured it will have my most careful attention.

ALLEN T. TREADWAY,
Massachusetts

Replying to your letter of November 14th, would state that my attitude now is just the same as it always has been, I am against lynching and believe the authorities should do all in their power to prevent it. I shall heartily support any bill which has that as its object.

WILLIAM L. HIGGINS, Connecticut

In reply to your letter of November 14, 1934, please be advised I am opposed to lynching.

THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, Illinois

I believe the recent federal legislation aimed against gang warfare and kidnappers has been effective as evidenced by activities of Department of Justice agents and I feel that enactment of the Costigan-Wagner bill will tend to displace lynch law by constitutional law. During the hearings on the bill in question, it was held by some that its enactment would not be constitutional, but I believe the able brief submitted to the committee by Mr. Charles H. Tuttle, a New York attorney, effectively disposes of that argument against the legislation.

BYRON B. HARLAN, Ohio

I have always believed that this scarlet blood on the American escutcheon should be forever wiped out. It was my intention to introduce a companion bill in the House of Representatives in order to expedite the passage of this worthwhile measure. Having learned, however, that Congressman-Elect Mitchell, is a Negro and a Democrat, I very willingly conceded the honor to him along with my congratulations, pledging my support and assistance towards its passage. I have advocated an anti-lynching bill, long before I entertained any idea of serving in Congress. I received my earliest training among the progressives of the West, and you need but consult my friend and political mentor, the Honorable Edward P. Costigan, as to my attitude in connection with the measure which he sponsors in the Senate.

JOHN D. DINGELL, Michigan

Put me down as favoring the anti-lynching legislation. I always voted for it.

CARL E. MAPES, Michigan

I have always been an advocate of law and order. Orderly procedure in courts of justice is the only American way. I will be glad to support legislation of the Costigan-Wagner type.

KNUTE HILL, Washington

Responding to your letter of November 14th inquiring as to my attitude on the proposed Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, I beg to say that I presume it will follow the lines of the old Dyer anti-lynching bill which came up in the House on January 25, 1922 and upon which I made a speech in its support.

ANTHONY J. GRIFFIN, New York

I take pleasure in enclosing, herewith, a speech which I made regarding the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, which explains my attitude and position.

Assuring you that I will continue to support this meritorious measure, I am,

WILLIAM H. SUTPHIN, New Jersey

In response to your inquiry, permit me to say that I am opposed to mob law in any manifestation; that I am shocked and horrified by lynching, no matter where it may occur and no matter whether the victim be white or colored, and that I am ready to join sincerely in

every rational and lawful effort to make an end of mob violence as a means of requittal when crime has been committed.

JAMES I. FARLEY, Indiana

Mobs are always angry; they are always frenzied; lacking reason they become demoniacal and are seized by the murderous instincts which they seek to conquer by their treachery and morbid justice. Law and order we must have. They can only be maintained in the interest of all by the steady peaceful course of courts and reasonable adjudication of wrong.

JOSEPH P. MONAGHAN, Montana

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 14 last. Although, as a general rule, I am not inclined to commit myself on legislation in advance of its introduction in Congress, I have no hesitancy in informing you I should be glad to support any properly drafted bill which would help in the prevention of lynching, and you may be sure any bills along these lines which are presented will have my careful consideration in order that I may see they are in correct form.

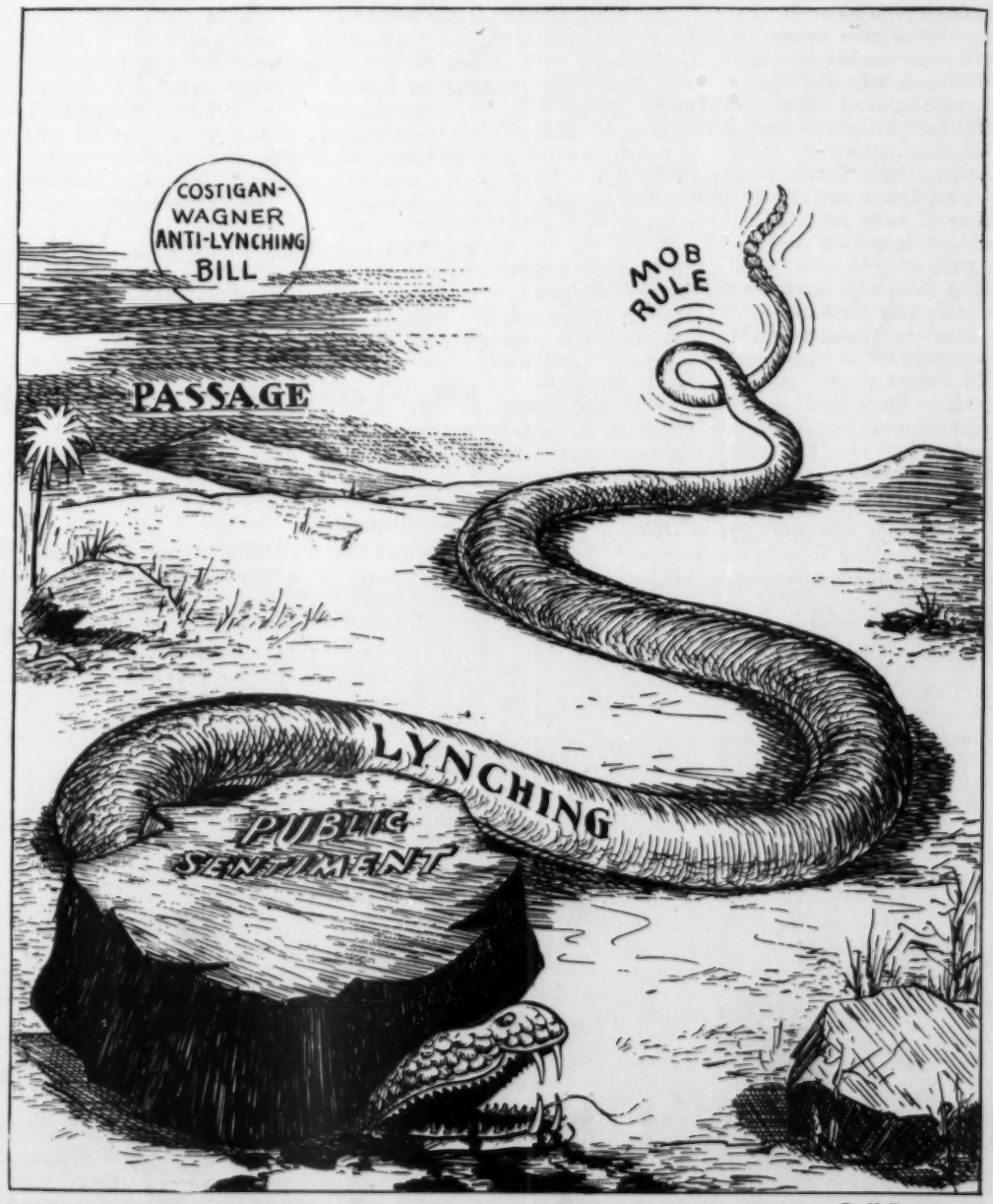
JOHN B. HOLLISTER, Ohio

I looked with favor upon the Costigan-Wagner bill as it was presented in the last Congress. I trust it will be presented along the same lines in the coming Congress.

JAS. M. MEAD, New York

Your letter of November 14th at hand. In reply, will say that in the absence of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill at hand and not recalling its contents, I will say that I favor that or some good strong anti-lynching bill and will lend all of my support and my vote to its passage. I think it high time that we do everything in our power to rid our nation of the blot of lynching

(*Continued on page* 61)



THE TAIL WON'T DIE 'TIL THE SUN GOES DOWN

By Holloway
Courtesy Pittsburgh Courier

What Do You Want, America?

By Frank Marshall Davis

What do you want, America?
Young bearded nation of the thick muscles
that does not sleep
against the breasts of past greatness——
What do you want, America?

* * * *

Sprawling across a continent
your feet washed in two oceans
and your goal above high heaven
Thousands of miles of steel veins
through which flows your life blood
hauled by bellowing freight engines
Your brain at work in Wall Street, Washington
telling the world to cut it out or keep it up
through a thousand mouths
at Geneva, London, Paris, Berlin, Rome, Tokyo
Your six foot scientists smart enough to measure
stars billions of miles away
or split unseen atoms
Swimming in a sea of gold
strong men going from rags to riches to rags to riches
Leading little nations by the hand
Your army and navy a Medusa's head
turning potential enemies to stone——
Why search the Sahara
for me, one grain of black sand
to blast the heart of
to knife the soul of——
How can you answer this?

Black scars disfigure
the ruddy cheeks of your new mornings in Dixie
(lynched black men hanging from green trees)
Blind Justice kicked, beaten, taken for a ride
and left for dead
(have you ever heard of Scottsboro, Alabama?)
Your Constitution gone blah-blah, shattered into a
thousand pieces like a broken mirror
Lincoln a hoary myth
(how many black men vote in Georgia?)
Mobs, chaingangs down South
Tuberculosis up North
——so now I am civilized

* * * *

What do you want, America?
If you ask for blood and bravery I show Crispus Attucks martyred in Boston . . . from his blood the first red dye for the Stars and Stripes . . . The mudblack skin of Peter Salem and his flinging of searing lead at Major Pitcairn on Bunker Hill . . . three thousand brown men helping nurse suckling America when Britain fought to keep her new child . . . a red interlude when blood of black and white mingled to cement new and sturdier foundations with Perry on Lake Erie, at Gettysburg, on San Juan Hill, in the Argonne and at St. Michele

If you want blood and bravery search the pages of crimson yesterdays . . . see a history written by strong laughing black men dying . . . today twelve million march singing against the foe of Prejudice and leave the burned the hanged the shot the raped as casualties of war

Perhaps, America, you want beauty and art?
Then let me show you Phyllis Wheatley before this nation walked alone, Dunbar in adolescence, Johnson, Cullen, Hughes, McKay today . . . Turner who dreams on canvas . . . Hayes and Robeson, their souls bathed in melody . . . and there are more for the asking

Did Bert Williams, Miller and Lyles teach you new laughs?
Where were new tunes for dancing before Handy bore the blues?

Let us turn to serious things, you ask, America
Let us turn to Carver, sold for a mare, at whose feet chemists sit . . . to Washington and DuBois, unlike, yet two Moseses leading the way in the wilderness of race hate with neither to view the promised land of interracial harmony . . . Benjamin Banneker, the Boston clockmaker . . . yet you know these and others

You teach white boxers to fight like Jack Johnson, sprinters to run like Eddie Tolan, jumpers to fly like DeHart Hubbard . . . you knew Bessie Coleman before Amelia Earhart . . . and how many Fritz Pollards, Duke Slaters can you boast?

I, too, know names, America

* * * *

Kill me if you must, America
All at once or a little each day
It won't matter
Black eyes saw the Pharaohs rise, the Kaiser tumble into the dust, strong ox nations whimper and cry before stronger ox nations . . . where is the Rome of Caesar? . . . what lives but the dust that covers all?
Yet today is today
Today must be emptied like a bucket before it dries into history
Today is an eagle, lingering a while, ready to fly into eternity
Today I live
Today I tell of black folk who made America yesterday, who make America now
Today I see America clawing me like a tiger caged with a hare
Today I hear only discords and crazy words in the song America sings to black folk
So today I ask——
What do you want, America?

—Frank Marshall Davis

Big Business Wants Negro Dollars

By James A. Jackson

THE Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, perhaps the world's largest business enterprise, created somewhat of a sensation last spring by announcing that James A. Jackson had been retained as a special representative to conduct research and promotion work in the Negro market. The colored public was considerably surprised and pleased.

The press gave the appointment wide publicity and many newspapers made editorial comment upon the appointment. The attitude of the Negro press was one of approval. Inquiry discloses that there really was little occasion for surprise that this company and its affiliates should make such an appointment to its trade promotion staff, for the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey and its affiliated companies, the Standard Oil Company of Pennsylvania, and Standard Oil Company of Louisiana and the Colonial Beacon Oil Company, Inc., have for years been developing interest in the Negro as a consumer of its products.

At 26 Broadway, the general office of the Standard Oil interests, it was learned that the concern for years has been garnering a substantial share of Negro goodwill and patronage through the usual approaches to the consumer market.

These four affiliated companies, known as the Esso Marketers, operate

Slowly but surely Business is beginning to approach the Negro market with intelligence. Some firms already are advertising in the Negro press while others like the Standard Oil Company as outlined here, are engaged in market research. Mr. Jackson is employed by the Standard Oil Company in this capacity

in eighteen states: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana and the District of Columbia. More than 5,100,000 Negroes, constituting about 43 per cent of the colored population of the country, live in the states named.

There are more than 100,000 Negro automobile owners in the states listed, and another 65,000 Negroes are employed as chauffeurs and drivers of delivery trucks. When the purchases of these two groups are considered in conjunction with the motor fuel required for the operation of tractors on Negro-owned, or -operated, farms and the heating fuel requirements of the many urban and rural Negroes who have oil heating plants installed in their homes, a sizable market is indicated.

Information as to this growing market did not break into the consciousness of the Esso Market officials with suddenness. The market research department of the concern is too efficiently organized for that. The acquaintance of the company with Negro buyers goes back to the early days of the concern.

200 Negro Dealers

Today the company has more than 200 Negro gasoline dealers on its books and perhaps ten times as many colored merchants who distribute Standard Oil Company kerosene. One such merchant, who handles both commodities has been a customer of the wholesale branch for more than thirty years; and Dixie Williams, that's his name, is still in business in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Last June the Five Points Stations, Wilmington, N. C., operated by William Watson celebrated its tenth year as an Esso outlet. Five other Negro dealers operating stations in the city joined with him in conducting the celebration and the company sent a representative to participate in the affair.

Two of the finest company-owned retail stations, one in Newark, N. J. and another in Memphis, Tennessee, are managed and manned exclusively by Negroes. The manager at Newark, N. J. is Dudley Johnson; and Irby and Clem Fogleman, two brothers, manage the station on Beale avenue in the

All-Negro Staff in Newark, N. J., station: Dudley Johnson, Manager; Merion T. White, Arthur Smith and Leonard S. Coleman

Tennessee city. In Washington, D. C., there are eight Negro dealers specializing exclusively in Standard fuels and oils. Two of these rank among the star stations of the division.

It was the Esso Marketers who first recognized the possibilities of merchandising through Negro dealers. From the beginning of motor fuel distribution through dealer stations, it has been the policy of the company to measure all applicants for contracts by the same yardsticks. No especial considerations, for or against, a Negro has ever existed in the company regulations or in the application of its policies. Perhaps it is because of that consistent practice that 273 Negro dealers, or 32 per cent of all under contract to handle exclusive lines of branded motor fuel are with one or the other of the Standard Oil corporations. The remainder are with 26 different distributors of gasoline.

The history of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey and its affiliated companies and a survey of its personnel discloses that Negroes have enjoyed a wide range of employment opportunities with these concerns. A partial list of the positions held by members of the race on its payrolls includes chemists, billposters (doing contract work), mail room clerks and messengers in general office buildings, chauffeurs, truck drivers, tank wagon driver-salesmen, pipeline workers, construction men, skilled mechanics who install tanks, cooks on ships, seamen and deck hands, service station managers and assistants, car washers and greasers and building janitors in some cities.

Eight hundred and three Negroes of assorted vocations are on the retired list under company pension and some among these hold important place in the life of the many communities in which they live. There seems always to have been a substantial number of Negroes on the payrolls of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey. The relative importance of their respective positions appears to have been pretty much in accord with the prevailing practices of the business structure of the nation with just a little more prompt recognition of worth; and a little earlier rewarding of merit than has been normal in the average commercial institution.

The company has granted advancement to its Negro employees. Perhaps the most striking examples of this attitude may be found in the retail department which operates the company-owned outlets, several of which may be found in almost every city. The Newark, N. J., and Memphis, Tennessee, stations are exhibits affording ample proof of this.

Perhaps the greatest contribution to the Negro patron that this company makes is its absolutely unprejudiced

JAMES A. JACKSON

treatment of its customers. Negro tourists know that the "Esso" sign means a square deal for them. Scores of complimentary letters from satisfied patrons attest this fact. Perhaps an extract from the book of Dr. Algernon B. Jackson, one of the foremost medical experts of the race, will serve to epitomize these letters. In his "Jim and Mr. Eddie" published by The Associated Publishers, Washington, D. C., Dr. Jackson recounts the experiences of a trip of more than 18,000 miles through fifteen southern states. In this book, Mr. Eddie represents the white citizens of the South, and "Jim" or "James" serve as the characterizations for the Negro element.

On page ten, in the opening chapter of his book, Dr. Jackson states that "Jim and James patronize stations of the Standard Oil group in preference to all others for the reason that they are more courteous and accommodating . . . and because of the policy of the company to employ Negroes and to grant them the agency for their output. . . . "

Official confirmation of Dr. Jackson's published statement is found in a communication from 26 Broadway to a Negro patron over the signature of a high company official in which this line is found: "It is the policy of the company to offer all of its services and station facilities without discrimination to all customers."

Close Study of Market

The tendency of the times has been to abandon the economy of emotion and to regard people of any type on a basis of the potential purchasing power and value plainly on the basis of profit. The concentration of large numbers of Negroes in ghettoes in practically every large city in the country, whether that be desirable or not, at least had the merit of providing units of sufficient size for measurement and evaluation. The Garvey movement, communistic activities, political realignments and depression news stories, with a considerable assistance from theatrical and musical achievements, all served to "break" the Negro to the business minds of the country.

The efforts of the Small Business Section of the Department of Commerce in interpreting the facts disclosed by the 1930 census after they had been broken down insofar as Negro information was concerned, by Charles Hall of the Census Bureau, contributed a lot to the sum of marketing information made available to big business on the subject.

Humanity has always been tied to habit. The habit of regarding Negroes as of negligible commercial value is an old one; and the thought at first was a justified one. Of course it will not readily down, but it is slowly slipping into the limbo of discarded notions and it is safe to predict that the policy of the Esso Marketers with reference to the Negro market will be emulated by a number of nation wide distributors of merchandise. Already a competitive oil company has followed suit. A furniture concern in Chicago engaged in the retail field has been cultivating the market for six years. So have several large chain store groups. A baking powder company representative and a score of demonstrators for the world's largest soap company, now vie with the Standard Oil Company special representative for public interest as the different communities are visited.

The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey has given every reason for the Negro to look upon the company and its affiliates with favor.

The company has provided the best commodities the trade has been able to produce. It accords courteous service and honest measure. Members of the race have found employment with the company. It has created commercial opportunities for those with the ability and capital with which to do business and has to a greater extent than most distributors of goods given support to the Negro press.

Because of its importance in the business of the world, of the prestige it enjoys, the example of Standard Oil of New Jersey has an unparalleled value as an influence upon other commercial distributors. It is leading the way to an approach to the long-neglected Negro market, proving, as it progresses, that this market responds readily and profitably to intelligent market research and the usual rewards of trade.

The Dawson Folk Symphony

By Harold Butcher

Mr. Butcher, New York correspondent for the* Daily Herald *of London, England, gives his reaction to the Negro Folk Symphony by William L. Dawson

VIVIDLY before me as I write is that scene in Carnegie Hall on the night of November 20, 1934, when from my balcony seat I looked across the vast audience to a bowing Negro on the stage, serene, confident, modest, acknowledging the enthusiastic applause of those music-lovers who had just heard his symphony.

That Negro was William L. Dawson, director of the music department and conductor of the choir at Tuskegee Institute, and the work which this sophisticated New York audience was applauding was his Negro Folk Symphony. All eyes were upon him as he came from the wings again and again to the front of the stage, bowing to the people before him and then to the Philadelphia Orchestra, which had played the music, conducted by Leopold Stokowski himself.

Thoughts rushed through my mind. Are these people calling Dawson from the obscurity of backstage because he is a Negro and they want to show how broad-minded they are? No, that was not the answer. I have heard first performances in Carnegie Hall acclaimed before, on occasions when the question of color did not enter. The people wanted Dawson the Musician. That he was also a Negro made the scene more dramatic, but it was his music that had created this enthusiasm. Negro music, yes; because, being a Negro, he could write such music as no white man could write.

I began to wonder what was behind that night's triumph. No man leaps suddenly to fame. The man who goes unknown to bed at dark to awake famous at dawn has undergone no sudden transfiguration. The awakening applies to the public which has just discovered his worth not to the man whose life has been a long preparation for a thrilling moment. Like Lindbergh crossing the Atlantic, a man hitherto unknown; actually a practised airman.

Years of Preparation

So I knew that behind William L. Dawson's achievement there must have been years of preparation, despite his youth—he is only thirty-two. Later, when we talked of his life and work, over the tea-cups, I began to understand what had gone before.

Born in Anniston, Alabama, Dawson went to work shining shoes as soon as he was old enough to work. Then he toiled in a grocery store, saving his pennies day by day, hiding them for

WILLIAM L. DAWSON

safety. Long before the Five Year Plan he had a plan! This plan was to win for himself a good education. He noticed his friends who had gone away to school were "different"; they had something he did not possess. He also wanted to be "different."

At the age of thirteen he ran away from home. He had saved enough money for his train fare to Tuskegee, but not enough to pay for his entrance fees. He had to work his way through school.

They put him on the farm to pay for his education. He learned a lot about agriculture, but he did not like snakes; and it seemed that wherever he went they were always crossing his path! They destroyed the peace of his Eden! The experienced farm worker knows how to deal with a snake; he seizes the tail and flicks the snake swiftly through the air as though cracking a whip. Its head flies off, and that's the end of the snake. Dawson was told that that was what he should do, but he said he couldn't.

One day Dawson cut his thumb with a saw and went to hospital. Next he found himself working in the band room of the Institute, happily reading up Beethoven and learning to play every musical instrument he found there. He became a member of the band and orchestra; he studied piano and harmony; he joined the Institute Choir; and he appeared as trombone soloist on the Redpath Chautauqua circuit.

After graduating from Tuskegee Institute he went on to study composition and orchestration at Washburn College, Topeka, Kansas; then for the study of theory and counterpoint at the Horner Institute of Fine Arts in Kansas City, Missouri. When he graduated with first class honors at the Horner Institute he was not allowed, being a Negro, to sit on the platform when the Governor of Kansas distributed the diplomas. His diploma was delivered to a proxy while he sat in the gallery. But—the Kansas City Symphony played his prize-winning composition on that occasion! He received his Master's degree in composition from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago.

Since 1930 William Dawson has been back at Tuskegee Institute, where he conducts the School of Music which he organized. His choir has a hundred voices, and people come from near and far to hear the singing.

He told me how he gradually evolved his Negro Folk Symphony. The music was in his mind long before he wrote it. (The same is true of the next composition about which he remained silent, turning aside my suggestion that he speak of it.) He aimed to write a symphony in the Negro idiom, the themes to be derived from the folk music he heard as a boy. The songs which white people call spirituals he knew in his youth, but nobody called them spirituals.

During the spare time of his study years in Chicago, Dawson completed his symphony and prepared his manuscript for its first rehearsal. While in New York at Radio City with the Tuskegee Choir a friend steered this manuscript in the direction of Leopold Stokowski, who, liking it, suggested its revision to a length suitable for public performances. And then the climax in Carnegie Hall! (*Continued on page* 52)

COMING SOON

"The Bronx Slave Market"

An article dealing with the almost unbelievable treatment of domestic servants, not in Tougaloo, Miss., but in the Borough of the Bronx, New York City. In an early issue of THE CRISIS.

Editorials

"Bill for Promotion of Rape"

THERE is a danger that the persons who are supporting the move for federal anti-lynching legislation do not realize the deeply intrenched, rabidly prejudiced, and intensely ignorant opposition facing them. A sample is contained in the remark made by one United States senator to Senator Edward P. Costigan, co-author, with Senator Robert F. Wagner, of the pending anti-lynching bill. Said he:

"Well, Senator, how is your bill to promote rape coming along?"

This suggests that even more painstaking and persistent work is needed than has been done before. One is apt to think that any person would be against barbaric lynchings, that any person with an IQ above 47 could be shown lynchings do not halt rape and are not staged for that purpose. It must be realized by the organizations and individuals supporting this legislation that detailed, tiresome, kindergarten work must be done to get it passed; and that these educational efforts must be supplemented by ruthless and cold-blooded political dickering where there are votes enough to back up such tactics; and that all this must be done over and over again.

Finally, this remark indicates the kind of insults being endured by the two sponsors of this measure. These senators are on the firing line every day. In the senate chamber, cloakrooms, restaurant, corridors and committee rooms they have to meet their colleagues who believe in lynching. We suggest to our readers that while they are writing letters to others urging the passage of the Costigan-Wagner bill, they write letters also to Senators Robert F. Wagner and Edward P. Costigan, thanking them for their work and expressing esteem and pledging co-operation.

$2,500 for 25 years

THIS is the twenty-fifth year of publication for THE CRISIS. Several of our friends have suggested that we seek silver anniversary gifts from readers and well-wishers. In this day of campaigns we have hesitated to send out our cry for aid, but, after all, THE CRISIS does need funds and perhaps there are readers who would like to make a twenty-fifth anniversary gift. We have throttled the temptation to ask for a great sum in the expectation of getting one-half or one-third of it. Our request is modest: $100 for each year of life, or $2,500. If we could receive this sum in addition to our income from other sources during 1935, we could pay off most of our debts and have one or two hundred dollars in the bank. We will not be able to expand any on this amount, to add a badly needed business and advertising manager to the payroll, but we can at least square accounts and start off the second quarter century next January with a clean slate. Contributions will be received gratefully and donors of large or small amounts will be listed each month in THE CRISIS.

Scottsboro Again

EVERYONE interested in the ultimate freedom of the Negro people hopes that at last the question of the constitutionality of barring Negroes from juries will be ruled upon squarely by the United States supreme court which has just agreed to review the Scottsboro cases for the second time. These defendants stand acquitted of any crime in the eyes of the world (outside Alabama) and the supreme court can, if it will, speed their acquittal in the eyes of the law.

Ethiopia Thrown to the Wolves?

IN the grim chess game being played by the nations of Europe, is the Kingdom of Abyssinia to be sacrificed as cold-bloodedly as is indicated in the news dispatches of the past weeks? Reports have it that France is willing to give Italy a free hand in Abyssinia in return for Italy keeping out of the Balkan and Central European mess. England is supposed to be satisfied with an agreement she already has with Italy over water rights from Lake Tsana, which feeds the Nile. Abyssinia has carried her protests to the League of Nations and has shown no disposition to accept the assertions and demands of Italy as final. In fact, the black nation has matched Mussolini phrase for phrase, wavering not a bit in the face of blasts from Rome.

It is difficult, from this distance, to judge what will happen. No one can tell what the oily European diplomats really have up their sleeves. Can Abyssinia fight a war with Italy? Will the League of Nations be able to adjust the dispute? Is England content to allow Italy to go into the rich African kingdom? Is Japan, as has been hinted, hovering in the background, ready to lend aid to the King of Kings and the Conquering Lion of Judah? American Negroes are watching developments with deep interest.

Smart Talk From Mr. Mitchell

BEFORE the 74th Congress was a week old, Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell, first Negro Democrat ever to sit in that body, delivered some smart talk that ill becomes a member of congress and hardly serves to raise him any in the estimation of his colored fellow-countrymen. Of all the silly moves he could have chosen, he picked the silliest—a quarrel with newspapers and newspapermen. Perhaps the new representative feels safe in the arms of his white party members and has decided that he needs nothing from the colored world. He has insulted and threatened the Negro press and has affronted the Negro population of the District of Columbia by refusing, without offering any excuse, to serve as a member of the District Committee.

He is quoted as declaring once more and still more emphatically that he is not in congress to represent the Negro race and does not intend to look after "race" matters. As an evidence of this he proceeded to condemn roundly the manly fight made in the last session to have Negro Americans served in the House restaurant, operated under the dome of the United States capitol, with funds from all the people. He is quoted as saying the protest of the race only "made matters worse."

It is difficult to imagine how hard the Negro's plight would be in this country if all congressmen took the position that they would have nothing to do with Negro affairs. White congressmen from Montana, Nevada, Idaho, Maine, and other states where there are less than 1,000 Negro votes in the whole state have interested themselves in Negro affairs because they realize these affairs are a part of the whole government, with which every level-headed public servant should be concerned. Is it of no interest to Mr. Mitchell that constitutional citizenship rights are denied to Negro Americans, just because a particular violation of rights does not occur in his First Illinois district?

He can go on prattling about not representing the Negro race if that satisfies his ego. Unfortunately, we are not able to be rid of him that easily. Whether he does anything *for* us or not, anything he does is tied to us. THE CRISIS is

Editorials

loathe to believe anything that comes out of the Jackson, Miss., *Daily News*, but Mr. Mitchell is starting out as though he means to justify that paper's assertion that the new congressman is a " 'white folks' Negro and will do anything they tell him to do." THE CRISIS is concerned about the reputation of the race even if Mr. Mitchell is not, and so we set down the fervent hope that if he cannot be discreet, he at least will remain silent.

"For the Good of the People"

IN their feverish "defense" of the mock trials and mass executions in Soviet Russia, the apologists for Stalin's Utopia remind us of nothing so much as a southern planter explaining why his method of dealing with Negroes is "for their own best interests."

Silent Lindy

HEADLINES, handshaking, spotlights, newsphotos, movie cameras, microphones, the splatter and "big show" of the Hauptmann trial. For servants, boy friends, taxi drivers, bank tellers, detectives, lawyers, ex-school teachers—for all except one. William Allen, the colored man who found the body of poor little Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr., and returned it to its parents, is out of the picture. Not even a word of thanks from the great flier. Will Bruno Richard Hauptmann be convicted? Did he build the ladder? How much of a "fish" story is the Isidor Fisch story of Hauptmann? Is Betty Gow telling the truth? All these questions, to colored people, are secondary to the one of "Why can't Lindy at least say 'thank you' to Bill Allen?" Does the Lone Eagle think Allens' handshake would rub off on him?

Greek Letter Societies Come of Age

EVIDENCE that the Negro Greek letter fraternities and sororities have come of age is contained in the reports of the activities of the Christmas meetings of several of them. There is still a healthy interest in purely social activities, and these latter have their place in any rounded program. The encouraging aspect revealed by the holiday convocations is the balancing of social activity with alert, intelligent interest in the affairs of the race and of mankind in general. The Greek letter organizations are concerning themselves with jobs, bread, agriculture, research, politics, economics and social justice. Several of them have made substantial contributions to organizations actively at grips with the problems of the day.

The nation-wide radio program of a sorority December 30 was a source of pride to every Negro and every friend of the race, for these young women themselves, as well as the cited achievements of their group, were irrefutable evidence of sound progress. If the recent meetings are any criteria, the fraternities and sororities have passed the adolescent stage of "whoopee" and bid fair to assume their rightful function of furnishing badly-needed leadership.

John F. Connors

BECAUSE of his belief in the granting of equal opportunity to Negro physicians and in the advancement of them on the basis of merit, without segregation or discrimination, the death of Dr. John F. Connors, chief surgeon at Harlem hospital in New York, is a distinct loss to all Negroes, in and out of the medical profession. It is not generally known that Dr. Connors carried on a battle within the American College of Surgeons because of that body's opposition to the admission of qualified Negro surgeons. His efforts and those of Dr. Walter Gray Crump were successful a bare three months before his death, when Dr. Louis T. Wright was admitted as a fellow. There is considerable controversy locally in Harlem over Dr. Connors and his policies, but the fact remains that under his regime Harlem hospital became the leading municipal institution in the country with a mixed staff of colored and white doctors. Negro doctors and the cause of equality in all fields of endeavor will be reaping the benefits of his work at Harlem hospital long after he is forgotten.

Honor for a Modest Man

IF a rating were to be given to all the persons connected with the N.A.A.C.P. headquarters on the score of modesty, there is no doubt but that Arthur B. Spingarn, for twenty-one years chairman of the national legal committee, would be in first place. He has been a devoted worker, never too busy with his own legal work to give advice on the humblest legal case of the association. His shrewd, sound counsel has been responsible for much of the solid legal achievement of the N.A.A.C.P. Yet he has never sought the spotlight; indeed, he has shied from it. It has been difficult to persuade him at times even to preside at public meetings.

In recognition of his long service to the association, a testimonial dinner will be tendered Mr. Spingarn in New York on the birthday of the association—February 12. Mr. Spingarn hopes that the dinner will not be merely a tribute to him, but that it will result in a new interest in the legal defense work of the association and in increased support for it. All persons who love justice and admire unselfish service should count it a privilege to pay Mr. Spingarn this richly-deserved tribute.

Good Out of Nazareth

IT may seem a little tiresome to our readers who are thoroughly converted, to keep mentioning the unpleasant subject of criminal assaults alleged to have been committed by colored men upon white women. The necessity of steadily refuting these allegations whenever the facts present themselves is seen in the persistent attempts, even in these enlightened years, to justify lynching by these alleged attacks. Just a day or so ago a travelling correspondent for The Kansas City *Star*, inquiring about lynching, was informed with pontifical solemnity: "There is one crime no Negro can commit in the South." From Birmingham, Ala., therefore, we add another string to our bow in the form of an official statement from the police department of that metropolis that a white woman who at first reported an assault by a Negro, later changed her story and admitted her attacker was white.

Support Unemployment Insurance

AMONG the most important tasks before the present Congress is the enactment of unemployment insurance legislation. The first concern of this nation should be the security of its people against the terrific privations they have endured for the past five years. Needless to say, there should be solid unity of all workers and enlightened intellectuals, regardless of color, behind this legislation. Write your congressmen and secure their pledge to vote for this legislation.

Abyssinia

(*Continued from page* 39)

Somaliland, after several victories over the British, threatened to push the whites out of East Africa. Lidj Yassu, then Emperor of Abyssinia, and a firm believer in the policy of "Africa for the Africans" made an alliance with the Mullah. As a result he was deposed. Civil war followed and in a bloody battle fought at Sagalle on October 27, 1916, in which 20,000 were killed, Lidi Yassu was beaten and the Christian forces secured in their power. As the king of England is pledged to support the Protestant religion so the emperor of Ethiopia swears to maintain Christianity. Let Abyssinia once throw in her lot with the Mohammedans and the white man's day in East Africa, and perhaps all of Africa, would soon be at end. Hence, the reason for the Europeans asserting that the Abyssinians are a white people, though in features, hair, and color, they generally show much more of what is known as the Negro than the Aframerican of the northern states.

The high preservative value placed on this black kingdom by the European is further reflected in the following: the total exports and imports of Abyssinia do not exceed at the most optimistic figure $10,000,000 a year. This is less than that spent by the 330,000 Negroes of Greater New York in a month. A white country with a similar low commerce would have but a vice-consul. Yet England, France, Italy, Germany, and the United States all have legations there. During the 1930 coronation at Addis Ababa the gold braid displayed by the Europeans rivalled that of a reception at Buckingham Palace or the Elysee.

Japan Cornering Markets

This matter of trade brings us to the subject of Japan. Japan is now the chief business competitor of the white nations in the Indian Ocean. Already she dominates the East African trade. Her cotton goods have crowded out European and American ones in the Abyssinian market. The white man's commercial day in the Indian Ocean is ended, unless he is willing to increase the purchasing power of the natives by giving them higher wages and a better price for their products, which he is not likely to do. Today, the natives, who are very poor, even according to European standards, must buy, if at all, low-priced products such as those furnished by Japan, China, and India.

Already Japan has a concession of land in Abyssinia the size of New Jersey. Nippon aims at nothing less than control of the Indian Ocean. Further the Ethiopians are more friendly to the Japanese than to the white man. Most Africans, black, yellow, or brown, and even white, detest European whites and with cause. Is there an understanding between Japan and Ethiopia in case of an attack by Italy? We do not know. The European powers, however, recently used their influence to prevent the marriage of an Abyssinian prince and a Japanese noblewoman.

Finally, were Italy even given a free hand would she attempt the conquest of Abyssinia? Answer: the time is past when European nations can send large armies into Asia and Africa. They need them against their enemies in Europe and also against their discontented citizens. How Yugoslavia and the rest of the Little Entente would rejoice to see Italy engaged in a great war in far-off Africa! The huge amount of men, money, and time necessary would drain an Italy which is already greatly strained. The Ethiopians, though no match for Italy, have the terrain and the climate in their favor, and are much better prepared than in 1896. The Italians, it is true, are very strong in the air, but airships are not a decisive factor in war.

The war against Abdel-Krim ruined Spain, and Spain had no European enemies then. Most political prognostications are vain, but we predict that were Mussolini to engaged in such a war and he did not win, and that quickly, he'd fare worse than Crispi. In short, our belief is that due to increasing restlessness at home, Mussolini is up to the old game of drawing a red herring across the trail. Moreover, was it a mere coincidence that all of this happened before the Laval-Mussolini conference at which France has made a few slight concessions to Italy?

The Farmer

(*Continued from page* 40)

THE next day Jim went to borrow money from the government agent. He was a farmer sorely in need of a little help. He would pay it all back come cotton time another year. But the agent glared at him.

"Lend you money?"

"I—I can pay it back—"

"Hump!"—All niggers want to borrow. Why don't you try working for a change? No, we can't lend you any money!" He stuffed his hands into his pockets and walked away.

Vaguely Jim noticed Mr. Hilton there. Smiling. He put out his hand and said something, but blindly Jim pushed him aside. Like a sleep-walker or one of those rare beings who are dead yet continue to function as though alive, Jim climbed into his buggy. His hands were folded idly in his lap. Death was in his eyes. From long habit the horse without being guided, found his way through the little town and finally on the long road home.

As Jim sat there, silent and motionless many things became clear to him. The dog missing, the strange, blue flame with which the cotton burnt; that cold look of hate in Mr. Hilton's eyes; Mr. King's refusal of a loan; the government agent's answer; that triumphant smile on Mr. Hilton's face.

In the moments required for the trip from town to the farm, Jim was transformed from a strong man, in the prime of his life, to an old man with empty eyes and a heavy heart. Lines seemed to have creased the brown of his face like tiny streams breaking the smoothness of firm, brown soil. The proud flash had gone from his eyes and his shoulders were stooped and old and tired.

"All my life, all my life, and this is what I've got. I have worked, and prayed and lived clean and upright. I have never crossed white people. Yet they take my farm from me. They want everything. They want the world. We do not matter to them——"

Perhaps this is what was passing through his mind, could he have straightened it out.

The horse turned in the gate. Jim dumbly looked at the little farm that meant so much to him. He and Mandy must leave it. Tomorrow he would see Mr. Hilton. They would go North. The tears that his eyes would not shed gathered in his heart and swelled it until he was afraid to speak lest his heart burst and spatter blood from his parched lips. Dimly he saw Mandy come out to meet him. He wanted to comfort her, she looked so scared. He moved to get out of the wagon and pitched face forward at her feet. Just an old man, lying still in the dirt. Drunk maybe—What right have niggers with oil? With anything?

From the Press of the Nation

Editorial of the Month

The Baltimore (Md.) *Sun*

Caldron Bubble

If the mob which attacked and later burned the courthouse in Shelbyville, Tenn., had advanced shouting "Land, freedom and bread!" the nation would have been aroused to the incipient peril or revolution. However, since this storming of Shelbyville's bastile was inspired by disappointment at the mob's failure to seize and lynch a Negro who was being tried for criminal assault upon a young girl, conservative citizens will lose no sleep over the incident.

Nevertheless, in spite of the reasons for rage against the prisoner, who seemed in a fair way to be promptly convicted, this mob's action is not insignificant. Mobs have attacked the outward and visible symbols of public authority before, but the burning of the Shelbyville courthouse seems to indicate a definite and deliberate contempt for all authority which is interposed between a mob and its victims. There is no indication that the processes of justice had failed. Innocent or guilty, the accused man was being tried in a court of law. The mob did not wait for the result of that process, but attempted to take the law into its own hands. The blazing courthouse suggests where the law stands down there. Shelbyville doesn't need a courthouse any more.

If anybody imagines that this kind of anarchy can safely be dismissed as trivial because it rises from the race problem, he is mistaken. The mob habit can respond to more than one stimulus, and communities where lynching and mob violence persist are the perfect culture medium for insurrection on a wider scale. The public authorities in Shelbyville, judge, sheriff, and National Guardsmen, seem to have done their job with courage and dispatch. They protected the prisoner and only failed to save the courthouse because of a natural reluctance to kill their fellow-citizens. The incident remains, nevertheless, a blot on the escutcheon of a great State and a sinister premonitory shadow of what can happen when mobs—whatever their origin or excuse—raise passion and hate above restraint and reason.

The lynchers met their Waterloo at Shelbyville, Tenn. This was caused by the action of an outstanding governor who will go down in history as one who has a sacred honor for the oath taken to uphold the laws of the state. The lynchers were met on their common ground and some faced death. Such fate should be meted out to others, then lynching will cease.—Savannah *Tribune*.

Only thirty-five minutes were consumed in funeral services for the late Calvin Coolidge, thirtieth President of the United States. The same day on which Mr. Coolidge was buried a prominent Richmond Negro was also buried. It took five hours to complete the obsequies.

This is an intelligent age, whether we have caught up with it or not. It is high time to quit such shows. The dead cannot enjoy them and they usually prove comedies, burlesques or tragedies for the living with the exception of the orator, who seems to gather a peculiar satisfaction from the role he plays. A reform in funeral services is in order.—Richmond *Planet*.

The Department of Justice shows a similar legalistic tendency in declining to act in the recent lynching at Marianna, Fla., of Claude Neal. Neal was kidnapped from the Brewton, Ala., jail and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is demanding action under the Lindbergh law. Under this law the death penalty is provided for any one who kidnaps any person and hold him "for ransom or reward OR OTHERWISE." The N.A.A.C.P. contends, rightly, that this "or otherwise" can be interpreted to give the Federal Government power in lynching cases. . . . Is the Department of Justice more interested in splitting hairs than in ending lynching? The "intent" of the law, Assistant Attorney General Stanley declares, was merely to end kidnaping and the "or otherwise" merely refers to the equivalent of "reward or ransom." What equivalents?—New York *Post*.

It looks to us as if Premier Mussolini undoubtedly has in mind the lambasting the Abyssinian soldiers gave an invading Italian army, years ago, when it sought to take over that country, then under King Menelik, and is endeavoring to "pick a quarrel" with Abyssinia while the Italian army is at its zenith, with the hope that the result of such proceedings at this time would favor Italy.—Cleveland *Gazette*.

Adolph Hitler, German dictator, has driven many a Jew to peroxide and other face bleaches. Only white Gentiles in Germany may be citizens, so that recently Jews have blossomed out into platinum and henna-haired blondes with a peroxide complexion. Last week Nazi officials, unable to tell Jew from Gentile in such make-ups, condemned "the craze for blondes which has wasted rivers of peroxide" and "gone too far." . . . *Afro-American*.

When Italy decided to seize valuable oil land in Abyssinia, the league of nations—an institution designed to promote peace and safeguard honesty—appeared to be looking out of the window.

The league of nations, with respect to Abyssinia, deems it not only wise but prudent as well to silently permit the dictator of Italy to make this national theft without any protest from those who are presumed to preserve and safeguard the peace of nations. In fact the league, by its silence, almost openly concurs in the steal; while there is no evidence at hand to show that the league will share in the plunder, yet if we are to be governed in our opinion, our natural deductions would be that all labor is worthy of its hire.—*Chicago Defender*.

Whites look upon ignorance in their race and intelligence in the black race, as exceptional.—Cincinnati *Union*.

The Virginia idea appears to be that commingling of the races in affairs of business is right and proper if whites are doing the bossing—a sort of psychology left over from slavery days. Only recently has the Richmond Board of Education decided to appoint Negroes as principals of the local schools conducted for children of the race. Evidently such a clamor was raised by Negroes in and outside of the State that the educational authorities found it advisable to recede from so awkward and inconsistent a position.—*The New York Age*.

Huey Long Says

(*Continued from page* 41)

can't do nothing about it. No sir. Can't do the dead nigra no good. Why, if I tried to go after those lynchers it might cause a hundred more niggers to be killed. You wouldn't want that, would you?"

"But you control Louisiana," I persisted, "you could—"

"Yeah, but it's not that simple. I told you there are some things even Huey Long can't get away with. We'll just have to watch out for the next one. Anyway that nigger was guilty of cold-blooded murder."

"But your own supreme court had just granted him a new trial."

"Sure we got a law which allows a reversal on technical points. This nigger got hold of a smart lawyer somewhere and proved a technicality. He was guilty as hell. But we'll catch the next lynching."

Quickly and positively changing the subject he ran on:

"Now about 'the share-the-wealth.' I say niggers have got to have homes and security like anybody else. (I thought: security and lynching?) I stand on that. They say to me: 'Do you mean niggers have to have a home?' I say: 'yes, a nigger is entitled to a home.' Who'll disagree with that? It's fair."

Sitting down opposite me now with his legs crossed, wriggling his toes, talking now quietly, now oratorically, but always amiably, the senator switched to another topic. He was courtesy itself (except for that word "nigger" which he certainly does not regard as offensive) and he was evidently trying earnestly to put over what he considered his "good points" on the Negro question.

"Why down in Louisiana," he continued, "the whites have decided nigras have got to have public health care. Got to give 'em clinics and hospitals. Got to keep 'em healthy. That's fair and it's good sense. I said to them: 'you wouldn't want a colored woman (one of his few uses of the word "colored") watching over your children if she had pyorrhea, would you?' They see the point. The same goes for other diseases. We got hospitals and clinics down there to care for niggers just like everybody else."

For the Poor People

"In your article," he concluded, as he called for a long distance call to New Orleans and moved to select some underwear, "don't say I'm working for niggers. I'm not. I'm for the poor man—all poor men. Black and white, they all gotta have a chance. They gotta have a home, a job and a decent education for their children. 'Every Man a King'—that's my slogan. That means every man, niggers long with the rest, but not specially for niggers. . . .

"Come to see me in Washington. Drop in any time. Share the wealth, yessir—Hello, New Orleans? Goodday—hello, hello. . . ."

With a wave of his naked arm in farewell (he had taken off his pajama coat) the Kingfish sent me on my way.

In the hall his secretary said a little proudly, as if to prove something:

"Well, you got your interview, didn't you?"

What about Kingfish Long and Negroes? What can they expect from him? Draw your own conclusions from the above. I have not attempted to polish it off. It is pretty much as he said it. No smooth, Ph.D. language. No oily phrases like: "I admire the Negro race because it has made the greatest progress, etc., etc." No special promises.

He dodges the hard questions on lynching and the vote, and is vague on the easy ones.

My guess is that Huey is a hard, ambitious, practical politician. He is far shrewder than he is given credit for being. My further guess is that he wouldn't hesitate to throw Negroes to the wolves if it became necessary; neither would he hesitate to carry them along if the good they did him was greater than the harm. He will walk a tight rope and go along as far as he can. He told New York newspapermen he welcomed Negroes in the share-the-wealth clubs in the North where they could vote, but down South? Down South they can't vote; they are no good to him. So he lets them strictly alone. After all, Huey comes first.

Anyway, menace or benefactor, he is the most colorful character I have interviewed in the twelve years I've been in the business.

Dawson Symphony

(*Continued from page* 47)

Folk Music on Grand Scale

Talking with Dawson about his symphony led me to the discovery of one of history's ironies. When the white men found that the Negroes were using their drums as signals of war—drum taps taken up again and again over a wide area, warning the black men of their foes—they took from the Negroes all their drums, thereby depriving them of their musical instruments. And now, today, in the person of William L. Dawson the Negroes have achieved their glorious revenge. In the rendering of his symphony most of the white man's musical instruments—violins, violas, 'cellos, horns, clarinets, oboes, trumpets, bells, chimes—were used. In his triumph at Carnegie Hall Dawson gained sweet revenge in its finest form. The turning of the other cheek which blessed both the Negro composer who gave and the audience which received.

I asked Dawson why he did not write music expressing the horror of a lynching or the struggle of Negroes in the labor market, competing with white workers for jobs in depression days. He was cool to the suggestion. He felt that he could go farther with the music he is writing, all of which comes out of Negro life as he knows it. The folk music upon which his symphony is based still lives among the Negro people he knows. He has mastered the technique of instruments undreamed of by the simple Negroes who created that music; and with those instruments he has expressed their music on a richer, grander scale.

107 Negroes Have Ph.D.

One hundred and seven Negroes have been awarded the degree of doctor of philosophy in the last fifty-eight years, according to Harry W. Greene, director of the department of education at West Virginia State College, in an article in *School and Society*. Sixteen such degrees were awarded during the school year 1933-34. The grand total has been conferred by thirty-eight American and European universities.

One-half the total has been contributed by the University of Chicago (16), Columbia university (10), The University of Pennsylvania (9), Harvard university (8), Yale university (6), and Boston university (5). Sixty-one of these degrees have been granted during four years of the depression; eighty-seven have been granted since 1920.

The fields of practical arts such as home economics, mechanical arts, business administration, health and physical education record no Negro doctorates. Twenty-four of the degrees were granted in the social sciences, eighteen in the physical sciences, and seventeen in biological sciences. Among the Negro schools where many of the doctors received their basic college education are Howard (15), Fisk (8), Lincoln, Pennsylvania (5), and Virginia Union (5).

A National Academy of Lynching

By L. Herbert Henegan

Here is satire on America's grand pastime of lynching as it might have been written by Westbrook Pegler. The Kansas City Call, in which it first appeared, and of which Mr. Henegan is city editor, has given THE CRISIS permission to reprint this column

A CENTURY of Progress Exposition which closed October 31, 1934 was a gigantic enterprise that brought from the four corners of the earth a composite and comprehensive story of man's triumphs and achievements for the past 100 years telling this interesting tale in attractive modernistic exhibits along three miles of Lake Michigan's water front in Chicago.

The next world's fair should, by all means, include an appropriate building of exhibits devoted exclusively to the progress of lynching and its technique in the South. Since lynching is recognized as a great American institution not only by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies but also by a large body of public opinion in the United States, some immediate steps should be taken to develop this great tradition to its proper place in our national life and folk culture.

After reading the account of the lynching of Claude Neal which took place Friday, October 26, 1934 at Greenwood, Fla., one notices a decided improvement in the technique of mob murder. In the first place this mob was not as impulsive and emotional as others have been. Lynch leaders are showing more restraint as they go about the ghastly business of watching a poor wretch strangle to death at the end of a burly rope. Instead of swinging up their victim as soon as he is caught amid the usual curses, whoops and fanatical yells, the Floridans are modifying the lynch ritual which gives a more sober and dignified tone to the execution. The "masters of ceremonies" refused to permit the lynching of Neal until the "rabble" of some thousand or more had been forced away. This shows some improvement. Perhaps lynching will be too good for the hoi polloi to see in the future as reserved and box seats will go to the better class of citizens. Lynching, then, is beginning to show some progress and refinement.

Another thing that evinces restraint was the prepared announcement that the "lynching was planned for between 8 and 9 p.m., but when the crowd grew to unexpected size, a 'committee of six' appeared and said disorder was feared and Neal would not be lynched until the crowd became smaller." Very exclusive!

I propose that the lynchers of the South should organize immediately a National Academy for the Advancement of Lynching for the further study, development and preservation of this great national institution. Out of this group will come advanced and scientific ideas as to the best methods of lynching a victim with attention given to the most favorable conditions under which the mob may work, a code of ethics, mob etiquette, proper methods to announce the event, whom to invite, costume of the victim and a hundred other details which will help to make lynching rival, if not surpass, world series baseball games, international yacht races, or intersectional football contests in interest. To make the nation more lynch conscious the Academy might provide a coast-to-coast broadcast of lynchings with the restrained whoops and applause of a hand picked audience forming a background for the guttural moans of the tortured victim. If the idea clicks maybe the Academy might find a sponsor for the broadcast. It will not be unusual then to hear an announcer interrupt the horror and say blandly, "This lynching is coming to you over station soanso through the courtesy of Acme Rope company, makers of ropes for every purpose."

Another idea the group might develop especially for the winter is the Indoor Lynch theatre. Here victims may be executed all winter long and spectators may witness the orgies from orchestra seats, the boxes and balconies. The press, of course, would get passes and the morning papers would be scanned by participants for "reviews" of the night's "performance." You see this proposal ought not be ignored because there is a mine of material in our hitherto latent lynch culture.

There should be required courses in Lynch Appreciation in white schools and colleges in the South. Kindergartens should use a Lynch-Primer for the tots so that they will have a correct and early understanding of that side of their history, tradition and folkways. The Academy for the Advancement of Lynching will, of course, sponsor essay contests on the development of lynching technique; research students would experiment and publish weighty theses and tomes on the progressive steps in lynch culture and discover improvement. Communities might stage lynching contests and compete for national lynching honors. In that way the Academy might force recognition from the Pulitzer or Nobel awards committees.

One might read with all candor that the "Pulitzer Prize for the best lynching of the year is awarded the citizens of Hogwaller, Miss."

The President, Governors and Mayors might encourage the Academy in its work by issuing annual proclamations setting aside a special "Lynch Week" in which there would be no limit to the number of persons put to death in this manner. The more horrible the death the greater the accomplishment. Without the least provocation, victims could be picked up at random and lynched without ceremony. Lynching score cards would be kept, of course, and the community turning in the highest number of brutal executions for the week would be awarded a specially designed medal for meritorious achievement.

We reiterate, the next world's fair should include an exhibit of the American Academy for the Advancement of Lynching showing the progress made in that brand of Dixie culture during the past 100 years. Florida has indicated what the possibilities in this direction might be.

The Bible Is Not Enough

By S. P. James

Dr. James, a native of British Guiana, returned recently from several years in Africa and brings the advice that Christian missionaries will have greater success with their religion if they will carry along with it more practical medical work

AFTER several years of careful study of Missionary enterprise in West Africa I have arrived at the conclusion that the progress made by many of the organizations responsible for the work is not commensurate with the financial outlay and the energy spent. One of the main reasons is, that methods which suited the wholly undeveloped state of the country during the early pioneering days of the last century are those which in a large number of instances are being practiced today and another reason is that the psychology of the unsophisticated native is not carefully studied and therefore insufficiently understood.

Most Africans in their primitive state believe in a god, not something capable of being seen, but an invisible being, located somewhere above. In one section He is given a name which means "Him on whom we lean for support". In another He is called "Our Father God". The rainbow by some is known by a phrase the translation of which is, "God's looking glass" whilst others say that it is God's bench on which He sits when He comes out of the sky to view mankind. They believe in a God of the sky but their conception of this Being differs materially from the view held by Christians.

At a low stage of his development, the African knows nothing of the causes of disease and attributes all types of illness to malign agency of some power higher than his own, which must be placated, propitiated or cajoled by burnt offering or sacrifices, human or animal. Those who have reached a higher stage of development regard disease as the work of a human enemy possessing powers strong enough to influence the spirit or god responsible for human suffering. The African's religion is intimately bound up with the practice of medicine: the witch-doctor is in part priest and physician and, like the ancient Greek, medicine to him, has a triple relation with science with gymnastics and with theology.

Demands Proof

His untutored mind will not accept anything new unless he is convinced that there are substantial benefits to be derived therefrom. For centuries he has been following a course mapped out by tradition and custom and he can scarcely be expected to abandon this readily for something new, especially if this is introduced by an alien people, whose mode of life differs so completely from his, unless he is able to foresee tangible benefits, and a marked improvement in his own status. He must have proof. That which the Bible teaches is not sufficient to convince him; to him it is not practical enough. It must be assisted by educational and scientific measures, which will demonstrate to him some of the benefits which Christianity and modern civilization offer.

One of the largest missions on the West Coast of Africa had its origin in the desire of a few native chiefs to have their sons educated as they believed that the white traders who knew "book" as they called it, were not dealing justly with them. This work has grown to such enormous proportions in a few decades, that the annual expenditure now runs into hundreds of thousands. It must be admitted that the educational aspect does not require consideration at the present time as all thoughtful and progressive missions have already seen its necessity. Unfortunately, however, the same cannot be said of medical work which experience in Africa teaches should go hand in hand with primary and secondary education in order that the African might receive some of the practical benefits of modern science.

It is conceded that medical science in general and Tropical medicine in particular have made immense progress within the last thirty years. Not so very long ago the West Coast of Africa was known as "the white man's grave." Relatives and friends in taking leave of their loved ones bound for the Coast, felt that they were seeing them for the last time, but today, although there is still very much to do in regard to public health and sanitation, conditions are so vastly improved, that with reasonable care, the risk of life is not much greater in some of the developed parts of Africa than it is in sections of highly civilized parts of the world.

True it is that the object of the researches which brought about these improvements was to enable the white man to reside in the tropics without unduly endangering his health, nevertheless it is equally true that this object cannot be attained without full consideration being paid to the physical well-being of those with whom he comes in direct or indirect contact.

Science Routing Superstition

With the increase of human knowledge superstition if giving way to science and mission work has a glorious opportunity of training native minds to appreciate the value of medicine and allied sciences. The tide is rising in favor of modern medicine. At no time in the history of Africa has there been such a keen desire to accept that which western civilization has to offer and this is specially so in the case of medicine. Diseases which for generations have baffled native medicine-men, are now successfully treated, kept under control and in some instances eradicated by qualified physicians. The native slow at first to submit himself for treatment, has begun to see the benefits and is taking advantage of them. He has found that some of those unsightly skin diseases from which they suffer respond readily to treatment at the hands of medical men, the injection method finding favor with some tribes, especially those which have been practicing it in a crude way for generations. The records of one hospital show that over one thousand such injections are given weekly, the writer himself giving as many as one hundred and sixty in a single day. Spectacular results are obtained in some types of skin disease, the most encouraging feature being the opportunity patients, relatives and friends have, of seeing the improvement, thereby demonstrating to all that the condition has been successfully handled.

One mission started a clinic for lepers a few years ago. In a short time it was treating hundreds of cases, patients travelling for days to avail themselves of the opportunity offered. This clinic has now developed into a leper colony conducted on modern lines caring for over one thousand lepers who grow their own food-stuff, build their own houses and supply themselves with other necessities of life. The Government realizing its duty to the public is now subsidizing the work so that its scope of usefulness might be extended. Small wonder then, that missions like these are succeeding in influencing the lives of natives for good.

Competent observers are of the opinion that the population of Africa is not increasing and have attributed this regrettable feature to the high infant

(*Continued on page* 58)

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

Extradition Case Won

The Chicago branch, through the skill of Attorney Irvin C. Mollison, has just won its long fight against the extradition of Leander McCline to Tennessee from Chicago on a charge of murder. The fight has been in progress for eighteen months and went to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, where Mr. Mollison's brief finally won freedom for McCline. On January 4, McCline was freed in open court by Judge Charles Woodward. The state of Tennessee was seeking McCline for the murder of a white bootlegger, and the same county which wanted him—Maury—was the one in which Cordie Cheek was lynched on December 15, 1933. Mr. Mollison made much of this in his argument to the courts, as well as the fact that Tennessee had supplied no witnesses and had failed in other respects to connect McCline legally with the crime. He stressed the fact that McCline was in Chicago on the date of the crime and had witnesses to prove his contention. The national office of the association last June supplied the funds for the appeal to the circuit court of appeals.

The Costigan-Wagner Bill

The new congress had been in session just seven days when on January 11 a mob in Franklinton, La., entered the jail and shot to death in his cell Jerome Wilson, who had just been granted a new trial by the Louisiana supreme court. Wilson was charged with the murder of a deputy sheriff last summer who attempted to arrest him without a warrant in an argument over the dipping of a mule. Practically the whole Wilson family was arrested, although it was generally known that the deputy was killed with a pistol bullet and Jerome Wilson had only a shotgun.

The New Orleans branch under the leadership of James E. Gayle took up the Wilson case, hired a lawyer, aroused sentiment among the white people and appealed his case to the Louisiana supreme court where it recently was reversed.

Wilson's lynching, the first in 1935, gave new impetus to the campaign for the passage of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill. The national office telegraphed President Roosevelt, Governor O. K. Allen of Louisiana, and Senator Huey P. Long of that state in protest. Senator Long, as the conceded "dictator" of the state, was asked to direct the running down and punishing of the lynchers. President Roosevelt was informed that the lynching gave added proof of the need of federal legislation.

The forerunner of a series of country-wide mass meetings in support of the bill was held in New York January 6 at Broadway Tabernacle, where Senator Edward P. Costigan and other speakers addressed an audience of 1,500 in support of the measure. The meeting was under the joint auspices of the Federal Council of Churches, the Greater New York Federation of Churches, the N.A.A.C.P. and twelve other groups.

It is expected that hearings on the bill will be held the latter part of January or early in February by the judiciary committee of the senate. All persons or organizations interested in supporting the bill are urged to write President Roosevelt and Senator Joseph T. Robinson, majority leader, as well as the senators and congressmen from their states urging the passage of the bill.

Licking County (Newark, O.) Junior branch: (1) Daniel Hickman, president; (2) Florence Wilson, secretary; (3) Susan Williams, assistant secretary; (4) Evelyn Hickman, treasurer; (5) Carl Guy, parliamentarian; (6) Dr. A. S. Burton, director; (7) Edward Herndon, assistant director and boys' basketball coach; (8) James B. Hogan, girls' basketball coach.

Spingarn Dinner

In tribute to his twenty-one years of service as chairman of the national legal committee of the association, a dinner will be tendered Arthur B. Spingarn in New York on February 12, the association's birthday. A committee of distinguished citizens of both races from all over the country is sponsoring the dinner.

Mrs. Maggie Walker

In the death of Mrs. Maggie L. Walker, banker and fraternal leader of Richmond, Va., the association lost a friend, supporter and worker who had been on its national board of directors for many years.

New Board Members

At the annual meeting held in the national office January 7, the following new members were elected to the board of directors: Prof. Manley O. Hudson, Cambridge, Mass.; the Rev. William Lloyd Imes, Judge Charles E. Toney, and Miss Frances Williams, all of New York. Other members re-elected were: Miss Jane Addams, Chicago; Senator Arthur Capper, Topeka, Kans.; Charles Edward Russell, Washington, D. C.; William Allen White, Emporia, Kans.; and the Rev. Hutchens C. Bishop, James Marshall, Miss Mary White Ovington, and Dr. Louis T. Wright, all of New York. At the meeting of the board following the annual meeting Dr. Wright was elected chairman of the board and all executive officers were re-elected. Roy Wilkins, the assistant secretary, was continued as managing editor of THE CRISIS.

In his report to the annual meeting, Walter White, secretary of the association, stressed the fight which had been made during 1934 against lynching and for the passage of the Costigan-Wagner bill; also the work for greater economic opportunity in the New Deal. He declared there was a note of greater militancy as evidence by picketing of the A. F. of L. convention and the National Crime conference and predicted more activity along this line in 1935.

On to St. Louis

According to word received at the national office, several branches already have made their plans for sending delegates to the twenty-sixth annual conference in St. Louis, Mo., the last week in June. The St. Louis branch began work on convention plans last October and indications are that this will be one of the best conferences in recent years. The fact that St. Louis is near the center of the country is influencing many branches to send delegates.

ARTHUR B. SPINGARN

Branch News

The Woman's Auxiliary to the **Bayonne, N. J.,** branch was organized December 5 with the following officers: Miss Ila L. Anderson president; Mrs. Daisy Sheppard vice-president; Miss Evelyn Douglas secretary; Mrs. Anna Smith treasurer. The first duty assumed by the auxiliary was the sale of N.A.A.C.P. Christmas seals. A tea to the members and friends of the branch was held during Christmas week.

At the annual election, November 15, the former officers of the **Port Huron, Mich.,** branch were re-elected: President, Robert M. Evans; vice-president, Rev. L. Strickland; secretary, Leroy King; assistant secretary, Robert B. Knox; treasurer, Mrs. J. R. Ware. Mrs. Gussie Turner is planning to give a series of social functions for the benefit of raising funds for the expenses of printing matter for the fight for the passage of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill. She will be assisted by Mrs. J. R. Ware, Mrs. Robert M. Evans, and Mrs. Laura Gainey. Mrs. J. W. Jackson will be of real service to the branch. The local branch will make an effort to form a delegation of the Michigan branches to meet in some central point that we may work for a common objective in this state. We wish to enter into correspondence with the secretaries of other branches of the state. Our membership campaign is still on. We are urging our members and friends to subscribe for THE CRISIS. We wish to make mention of George King, a student of the high schools of the city, who discovered a term which was objectionable to him on a program of the high school carnival. He secured a copy, asked to be excused from class, and went directly to the office of Dr. J. R. Ware. Thereupon Dr. Ware went to the principal, and the superintendent of public schools, protesting the term "Nigger Babies." Both promised to remove the contemptible term.

On November 4, the regular monthly business meeting of the **El Paso, Tex.,** branch N.A.A.C.P. was held. Communications and releases were read from the national office. The book, "Negro Americans, What Now?" by James Weldon Johnson, was given particular attention and several names were taken of persons who wish to purchase copies. The importance of subscribing for THE CRISIS was stressed. Our secretary, Mrs. L. W. Washington, gave a concise financial report of the entire year in which S. M. Collins, treasurer, concurred. The following persons were elected to office for the ensuing year: L. W. Washington president; C. Jordan vice-president; Mrs. L. W. Washington secretary; Miss Gracie Blueford assistant secretary; S. M. Collins treasurer; Mrs. Sarah Allen chaplain; additional members of the executive committee: Dr. M. C. Donnell; Rev. O. B. Ware; Mrs. C. G. Nixon; Rev. A. G. Russell, and Dr. Vernon Collins. Sunday November 18, Rev. A. C. Capers delivered an address to our branch on "The N.A.A.C.P. is the Medium through which we can speak to the World." The meeting was held at the Second Baptist Church of which he is pastor. Theodore Walker and Miss Gracie Blueford have been elected to report to THE CRISIS from our branch.

The **Omaha, Nebr.,** branch through its president, R. C. Price, and members of the executive board, is putting forth every effort to make this branch one of the most outstanding branches in the country according to the size of the population. Besides a continued membership campaign, the latest undertaking by the branch through the president, backed by board members, and the co-operation of the Non Partisan Voters and Civic League and the Ex-service men League, is to place Negro school teachers in the public schools of Omaha.

A meeting was called at the Mid-City Community Center by the President inviting heads of all departments in the city. At this meeting, this group naming themselves, "The Citizens League" selected the names of five men to be placed on the school board in the election of November 6. Two of the six were elected: Fred A. Wright and M. F. Mulvaney. Mr. Wright is former city attorney and Mr. Mulvaney is an insurance man, both men are of the highest type and believe in fairness to all.

The Omaha branch has been instrumental in removing signs in various establishments in the city which read "No Colored Trade Solicited, We serve Colored People in sacks, etc." Some were very stubborn in removing their signs while others agreed at once to remove them after being explained as to why such signs would not be allowed to remain. One Texan emphatically said he would not remove his sign, but when the police informed him of the danger, the sign quickly came down.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Omaha branch, which was called for the main purpose of setting a date for the election of officers for the coming year, President R. C. Price strongly indicated he did not wish re-election. Dr. Wesley Jones, M. C. James, John Adams and E. W. McCowan, praised the president for his successful term. Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m., December 16, was the time and date set by the board for the election of officers.

The **New Orleans, La.,** branch held its annual election in Pythian Temple and chose as officers: president, J. E. Gayle; vice-president, Emile Labat; secretary, Mrs. O. M. Brown; assistant secretary, Miss Camille Harrison; treasurer, R. J. Llopis; executive committee: S. W. Green, John D. Brown, H. E. Braden, C. C. Valle, Prof. J. S. Tiner, Dr. A. W. Brazier, B. F. Easter, A. E. Perkins, Rev. R. W. Coleman.

Resolutions dealing with Negro education were adopted and sent to the Orleans Parish school board. The Association voted to have Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, Pittsburgh, Pa., regional field secretary to come to New Orleans and conduct an extensive membership drive. Attorney G. W. Gill representing the Wilson family addressed the gathering and threw new light on this case that is creating nationwide interest. The response to the defense fund was very encouraging. The following contributions came in from Baton Rouge, La., through the activities of the **Baton Rouge, La.,** branch: Dr. Leo S. Butler $5

J. E. Perkins $1; Benj. Stanley $1; Dr. H. H. Huggins $1; Dr. A. O. Lyons $1; C. King $1; M. J. Ringgold $1; J. E. Darensbourg $1; Mrs. D. J. Dupuy $1; W. M. Henderson $1; Jos. Henderson $1; Rev. L. W. Haydel $1; Bennett I. Pates $1; Dr. Felton Clark $2; W. W. Winbush $1; Shiloh Baptist Church $1.78; Donation from friends and public collection $2.22; Mt. Zion Baptist church $10. Other contributions were: membership fee—John D. Brown $1; C. C. Vallee $1; Dr. B. F. Easter $1; Jas. E. Gayle $1; Louise Toval $1; Mrs. Cecile Williams $1; Miss M. A. Murphy $1; Mrs. S. W. Green $1; Dr. A. W. Brazier $1; Miss Rola Lyons $1; J. S. Tyner $1; R. J. Llopis $1; S. W. Green $1; Rev. R. W. Coleman $1; Rev. Jos. Granderson $1; Emile Labat $1; Mrs. M. A. Marsh $1; Camille Harrison $1; A. E. Perkins $1; Wilson defense fund—through Mr. C. C. Vallee Insurance Committee: Unity Insurance Company $5; Universal Life Insurance $5; Louisiana Insurance $5; Douglas Insurance $5; Through Prof. A. E. Perkins Chairman School Committee: Danneel School $7.75; Dunbar School $3.10; New Orleans Mothers Club $3; Through the Church Committee Jas. E. Gayle Chairman: New Guide Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La., $5.30; Other donations under date of November 15, S. W. Green; J. E. Gayle, Dr. Thad Taylor, Cash 35 cents, Mrs. S. W. Green $1; Jackson Acox 50 cents; H. E. Braden $1; Mrs. M. A. Marsh.

The **San Antonio, Tex.,** branch held its annual election of officers in connection with its regular monthly meeting, Sunday afternoon, November 18, in the library auditorium. The following officers were elected: Dr. C. A. Whittier, president; R. Hood, vice-president; Mrs. M. J. Brewer, secretary; Miss Marjorie C. Broune, assistant secretary; P. I. Roberts, treasurer. The meeting was held in the form of an open forum led by J. O. Robinson. The topic for discussion was, "To What Extent the N.R.A. has Benefited the Negro." The forum was one in which great interest was manifested. In connection with these discussions the president expressed his firm belief in a greater piece of work being accomplished in Texas if there was an occasional meeting of representatives throughout the state. Contact was made with each of the presidents of Texas branches by authority of the main office in New York City. On Thursday, November 29, 1934 a group of Texas N.A.A.C.P. presidents met in Galveston, Texas, by request of Dr. C. A. Whittier for the purpose of organizing a state conference.

The principal subjects for action at the regular meeting of the **Grand Rapids, Mich.,** branch were: The election of officers, the annual football banquet and a report of the grievance committee concerning a Community Center conducted by a G. M. Bosswell, the chief executive of an organization known as "The Observers Ethiopian Circle." Considering the efficiency and faithful, co-operative service of the present staff of officers, it was decided by the body to cast a unanimous vote for all officers for the ensuing term. The Community Center established in this city for colored people was vigorously opposed in a lively discussion by the branch because of a general idea of its motive being that of segregation. In order to formulate plans for the overthrow of said project a committee was appointed to make preparations for a mass meeting in the near future.

The mass meeting committee, from which is expected some very tangible results, consists of Floyd H. Skinner as chairman of the special publicity committee program, ably augmented by Messrs. H. V. Clark and Alexander Tynes; and the Reverends L. B. Bunn and A. C. Keith.

The **Fayette County, Pa.,** branch of the N.A.A.C.P. elected the following officers at its election November 28: R. L. Porter of Brownsville, Pa., president; Oscar Carter, Newtown, Pa., vice-president; G. K. Dougherty, Brownsville, Pa., treasurer; Mrs. C. A. Lanon of S. Brownsville, Pa., secretary; executive board Rev. Fox, Mrs. Wm. Barker, Mrs. R. L. Porter, William West, John H. Thompson, Charles Knight, James Williams. The branch is now making plans for installation and a banquet for January 7.

The **Charleston, W. Va.,** branch on December 9 produced "Death Takes a Holiday" with a local cast. Those in the cast: Juanita Nelson, Clyde Gilmore, William Ross, Alice Diamond, Stella Minor, Laura Willis, Elbert Alston, Willia Smith, Steve Brown, Dr. W. D. Morris, Mamie Brown, J. Arthur Jackson, William Jackson. The director was Fannin S. Belcher. On the production staff were: Mrs. Charles B. Payne, Mrs. William

ROBERT H. WHEELER
First prize winner in Newark, N. J., N.A.A.C.P. Campaign

IDEAS

From the Branches

Each month in this space The Crisis *will print an idea sent in by a branch to aid the work of the association either by raising money or making the branch and association program more effective. Send in the ideas your branch has found successful. They will help others.*

For this month the Port Huron, Mich., branch writes:

"Our branch has decided to establish a lending library of the works of Negro authors for the benefit of members of the local branch."

Is someone doing something different in your branch? Send in your ideas written as briefly as possible. Deadlines the first of each month.

My Country, 'Tis of Thee Sweet Land of Liberty—

This is a picture of what happens in America—*and no other place on earth!* Here is the U. S. rope and faggot record to date:

Lynchings since January 1:

1

●

Lynchings during same period last year:

0

●

Total lynchings since 1882:

5,069

●

(Figures as of January 15)

You can help stamp out lynch law by joining the forces who are campaigning for the passage of a federal anti-lynching law by the 74th congress. Write the N.A.A.C.P. for information: 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Moore, Mrs. J. A. Franklin, Mrs. William Wright, Mrs. T. G. Nutter, Mrs. Jeanette Mosby, Mrs. B. A. Chichlow, David S. Carroll, John C. Norman, Murray Marvin and Lordon Mitchell. Officers of the Charleston branch are: T. G. Nutter, president; W. W. Sanders, vice president; Mrs. Andrew H. Brown, secretary; Miss Mary L. Williams, assistant secretary; Mrs. W. H. Wright, treasurer.

At the annual meeting of the **New York, N. Y.,** branch November 18, James Egert Allen was re-elected president along with the other officers. Prizes for work in the membership campaign were donated to Mrs. Madelyne H. Henderson; Mrs. Addie James; Mrs. Mildred H. Dennis; Miss Maude Turner; Mrs. Lucy Henson; Miss Sarah Mays and Dr. Alma M. Haskins.

Joseph G. LeCount was elected president of the **Providence, R. I.,** branch December 18, at which the main speaker was Mrs. Minnie T. Wright of Boston. William P. H. Freeman who has been president of the branch for a dozen years declined to run for re-election and at the meeting read a comprehensive report of the branch activities for 1934. Other officers elected are: vice-presidents, John F. Lopez, Reverend Richard I. McKinney and Mrs. Rose Bradic; secretary, James Mabray; treasurer, Miss Reberta J. Dunbar; executive committee, three years, William P. H. Freeman, James M. Stockett, Jr., Ashby Smith; two years, Anna A. Lewis, Charles S. Beaubian, Walter Gladding; one year, William E. Brown, Dorothea R. Crockett, Dr. Carl R. Gross.

Immediately upon being installed in office, president Tilford Davis, Jr., of the **Kansas City, Kansas,** branch, announced that an intensive campaign for new members, and especially for white members, would be initiated in order to make the branch a truly interracial group.

A committee has been named by the **Cleveland, Ohio,** branch to study the slum clearance projects in that city to see how construction costs can be brought into line with rents colored people can pay. Miss L. Pearl Mitchell was reelected president of the branch; Dr. George Craig was elected vice-president and Arthur L. Taylor, secretary. Edward Johnson was reelected treasurer.

William Pickens, field secretary of the Association presided at the closing night of the annual choir contest in Birmingham, Ala., early in December.

Dr. Leon Scott was reelected president of the **New Rochelle, N. Y.,** branch. Other officers are: Mrs. Joseph Bulloch, vice-president; Dr. Edward Best, secretary; and Dr. Caeser P. McClendon, treasurer. The branch is mapping a persistent campaign of political action to aid the passage of a federal anti-lynching law.

Dr. William N. DeBerry reviewed James Weldon Johnson's book "Negro Americans, What Now?" at the December meeting of the **Springfield, Mass.,** branch.

Dr. Burrell K. Johnson was elected president of the **Johnstown, Pa.,** branch; William L. Leftwich, vice-president; Charles E. Fairfax, secretary; Miss Minnie Turner, treasurer. The junior branch announced that the net proceeds of a play and dance held early in December amounted to $40. The juniors also assisted in the sale of N.A.A.C.P. Christmas Seals.

With a membership of over 625 almost all of whom were secured during the fall membership drive directed by Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, regional field secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., the **Norfolk, Va.,** branch of the N.A.A.C.P. has taken on new life and has mapped out a definite program of work for 1935.

The program of the branch is intended to acquaint the members and the general public with the civic and political rights and duties of our group, especially under the new deal recovery program. The branch will arrange periodic meetings at which time various phases of the NRA will be discussed as they relate to the welfare of our race.

The branch has organized a franchise committee headed by Professor P. J. Chesson and Thomas L. Dabney which will direct an intensive campaign beginning with the new year to put on the qualified voter's list in Norfolk 1,500 Negro voters by May 15. The committee has already divided the city into districts and the organization of the subcommittee in these districts is in progress. Appropriate literature has been published for use in this campaign which will carry to every Negro in the city the importance of voting as a means of securing that power which alone will count in our efforts to get more consideration from the local government.

The officers of the branch who were elected at the special meeting in November, were inaugurated at a public meeting January 13, Eugene West was reelected president of the branch and W. P. Milner was elected secretary.

The Norfolk branch gave its full support to the formation of the Virginia Conference of the N.A.A.C.P. Mr. Eugene West, Professor P. J. Chesson, Mrs. Florence Chesson, W. P. Milner, and C. B. Williamson and C. C. Dogan. Mrs. Florence Chesson was elected secretary of the conference.

BETTY MARIE ROGERS

Winner St. Clairsville, O., branch Baby Contest

NINE WAYS TO KILL A BRANCH

1. Don't go to meetings.
2. If you do go, go late.
3. If the weather doesn't suit you, don't think of going.
4. If you do attend a meeting find fault with the work of the officers and members.
5. Never accept office, as it is easier to criticise than to do things.
6. Get sore if you are not appointed on a committee; but if you are do not attend the committee meetings.
7. If asked, by the chairman, to give your opinion on some matter, tell him you have nothing to say. After the meeting tell everyone how things should have been done.
8. Do nothing more than absolutely necessary, but when members use their ability to help matters along, howl that the organization is run by a clique.
9. Hold back your dues or don't pay at all.

Columbus Advocate

Bible Not Enough

(*Continued from page* 54)

mortality—which is said to be as high as 700 per 1000 live births in some sections and also to a diminishing birth rate. The writer is of the opinion that the former has always been very high but it was to some measure compensated for by high birth rate due to some of the customs of the people social as well as religious. It would appear that with the introduction of western diseases together with social and economic changes, this high birth rate has been considerably reduced whilst the infant mortality shows no improvement. It is exceedingly doubtful if anything can be done to improve the prolificness of the native but the field so far as child welfare work is concerned is practically untouched. The chief glory of the African is parenthood, grave anxiety being felt if after a year of marriage life, there is no issue or prospect of any. The death of a child therefore causes poignant grief to parents; consequently they will welcome any measure calculated to save the lives of their children.

Child welfare work except in a few of the largest towns is unknown. We believe that it is part of this duty of missionary bodies to establish centers in various parts so that mothers would have an opportunity of learning how to take care of their children thereby reducing the appalling infant mortality rate. Let the African see that those who bring Christianity to him are capable of improving conditions under which he lives and he would have more respect for that religion which they preach.

BRANCH NEWS

Send the news from your branch regularly to THE CRISIS, 69 Fifth avenue, New York. It must reach us by the first of each month.

BOOK REVIEW

DIVINE WHITE RIGHT by Trevor Bowen. . . . With a section on THE CHURCH AND EDUCATION FOR NEGROES by Ira DeA. Reid. . . . 310 pp. New York. Published for the Institute of Social and Religious Research by Harper & Bros. $1.75.

All colored people and all intelligent white people owe a debt of gratitude to the Institute of Social and Religious Research for sponsoring this brave and intelligent book. It purports to be "a study of race segregation and interracial cooperation in religious organizations and institutions in the United States," but it is much more than this. It is, in part, a history of the economic, educational, social and religious wrongs heaped upon the colored people in the United States, but, more than this it is an accounting of the responsibility of the Church for its part in these wrongs. It has the merit of not being unbiased. It would be a timid and calculating person who could survey this record and not be aroused by its stupidity and its cruelty; Mr. Bowen is not such a person and he has not hesitated to turn his history into a vigorous indictment of the Church and the Christian Associations.

There are few colored people in America who are not already only too well acquainted with this register of injustices, although this book is unique in the succinct and logical manner in which it sets them forth. To some of them, however, the chapter on the New Deal may bring news of the havoc that it is bringing to many of their number and the danger it holds for all of them if some of its policies and abuses are not promptly and vigorously attacked. But, perhaps, the most timely chapter of the book is that on Hospitalization for Negroes, because it throws light on a subject on which, unfortunately, there is not a unanimity of opinion among colored people. It should help to convince all of them of the weaknesses and dangers of public segregated hospitals and of the necessity of relentlessly combating every effort to have their medical needs met and health problems solved in the North with such institutions and that their ultimate goal must be their extinction in the South.

Mr. Bowen has traced his history and stated his problem most admirably, but his constructive program leaves one somewhat discouraged. It is largely an appeal to the Christian conscience for fair dealing, but, alas, there is nothing in the past history of the churches in America, or those who control their destinies, which justifies much hope that the "good" people of this country will in sufficient numbers relinquish their "divine white rights" until they are compelled to for reasons other than altruism. But the book so effectively exposes the shortcomings of the Church in America and so convincingly strips it of all its justifications that it cannot fail to make a real impression upon all men and women of good will.

The last section of the book was written by Ira deA. Reid and deals with the Church and Education for Negroes. As might be expected from its author it is a comprehensive and enlightened survey of the subject.

A. B. S.

J. HARVEY L. BAXTER
Author of New Book of Sonnets

State Welfare Consultant

Mrs. Maude B. Coleman, president of the State Federation of Negro Women's Clubs in Pennsylvania, has begun her tenth year as interracial consultant to the state department of public welfare.

Buy "Divine White Right" thru Crisis Book Shop, $1.75—Adv.

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LETTERS *from* READERS

Race Mixture Inevitable

To the Editor of The Crisis:—I regret that I cannot send you a copy of my address on racial intermixture in the United States as I did not deliver one. Dr. R. S. Rattray read a paper on the future of anthropology in Africa, in which he dealt with some problems affecting Negroes and I merely joined in the discussion which followed.

The fact, as I believe it to be, is that no barriers, whether legal, social or religious, have ever succeeded in preventing racial fusion within a given area. In India the caste regulations are extremely strict, yet there is probably no one, outside the wild jungle tribes, who is not of mixed blood. The Jews of South Arabia are indistinguishable from the local Arabs and those of China from the Chinese. In South Africa race fusion has already gone a considerable way.

That the United States will prove the sole exception to a universal rule can only be believed by those who shut their eyes to notorious facts. These are that at least 80% of the Negroes of America are of partly European descent, and that there is a small but steadily increasing proportion of alleged pure whites who have Negro admixture.

Yours faithfully,

RAGLAN

Udny Castle
Aberdeenshire, Scotland

(Editor's Note:—A news dispatch from Scotland last fall reporting the proceedings of an anthropological society meeting there quoted Lord Raglan as stating that before many centuries will have passed there would not be a single person in the United States without some mixture of Negro blood. The Crisis wrote Lord Raglan asking if he would allow us to print his paper. This is his reply.)

Negroes on the Rhine

To the Editor of The Crisis: Just a word anent the letter signed by M. Bernard Lecache of Paris appearing in the December issue of The Crisis.

I would suggest that Aframericans wishing to contribute to M. Joseph Bilé's fund in behalf of Negroes now living in Germany first take the trouble to ascertain whether or not the plight of these Negroes is due largely to the general economic depression, from which, of course, Germany has not escaped, rather than to "racial terrorism under the Third Reich."

I venture to state that Negroes are just as free today to enter and to leave Germany as they were during the hey day of the Hohenzollern regime—provided they do not go there looking for work. Students of African descent are still welcome at Heidelberg, Berlin, or Munich. We remember, too, that as late as this past summer a party of our colored Baptists met at Berlin and visited other parts of the Reich without any untoward incident.

Lest it be inferred that I am writing without first hand information, let me add something of my own experience:

Last June I set out from Paris—not without certain misgivings after what I had been reading in the French press regarding Hitler and Hitlerism—to visit parts of Western Germany and to attend the Passion Play at Oberammergau. In my haste, I had overlooked the very obvious thing of having my passport viséd by the German Consul at Paris. Naturally, I was stopped when I reached the frontier. The Nazi officials were firm but courteous: I could only enter the country upon paying the fine of 12 marks—and they showed me the record of similar fines assessed. This matter settled, I was permitted to resume my journey unmolested.

I spent several days at Heidelberg, Stuttgart, Augsburg, and Munich. I saw several Nazi troops on parade; I passed them on the street without saluting; yet no one seemed to take any notice of my seeming mark of disrespect to the Nazi flag. I talked with German men and women—they entered readily into conversation, there was no restraint of censorship. While bewailing the present economic prostration of Germany, they remarked that conditions had much improved since Hitler came into power. Yes, they have the same faith in Hitler that we have in Roosevelt; but they felt conscious of the fact that their country was being very much maligned abroad.

At Augsburg and at Munich I met several Germans who had been in America and who would have been only too glad for an opportunty to return for economic reasons. I happened to have been at Munich during the famous Nazi putsch of July 6. It had nothing of the formidable proportions with which it has been characterized in the foreign press; certainly, it was not attended with any of the orgies that usually accompany a lynching party in Florida or Alabama. No one ordered me off the streets "after certain hours."

I hold no brief for Hitler or Hitlerism; hence this letter is a defence of neither the one nor the other; but I will say this that since returning from Germany, I have learnt to regard all news coming from that country with a very, very critical eye. Let us help to repatriate our unfortunate brethren back to the Cameroons, if we wish; but let it be clear that we are not impressed with this myth about "Hitler terrorism." We Negroes of these United States have suffered more and have more to fear from the dominant group than what our brethren from the Cameroons have suffered or have to fear from Hitlerism in the Rhineland. Other things being equal, I had rather live in the Rhineland than in Florida or Alabama.

Washington, D. C. T. A. Daley

Editor's Note: The Crisis holds no brief for unverified reports of terrorism, but it ventures to suggest that the writer of the letter above, like some of the ministers who were the guests of Germany last summer, has confused the treatment of *visiting* Negroes in Germany with the treatment of the native Africans on the Rhine who have been residents of Germany since the war. It ventures the observation also that the courtesies accorded visiting American Negroes in Germany have no more relation to the treatment of German Negro residents than the courtesies extended a visiting Haitian or Abyssinian in America have to the treatment of Negroes in Alabama.

To the Editor of The Crisis: With the change in management of The Crisis I wondered what the effect would be. I am frank in saying that The Crisis grows in my estimation with its every publication. In the December edition was I especially pleased with Preece's "Fascism and the Negro."

Hobart Jarrett, *Editor*
Wiley Reporter.

Marshall, Texas.

Fascism Article "Absurd"

To the Editor of The Crisis:—I have just finished reading Fascism and The Negro, by Harold Preece, in the December issue. Even though such an article may have been compatible to your editorial policy, and such a subject a very pertinent discussion to a super-sensitive race, it was the case of one crossing an area before approaching it. It was much to-do over nothing. We have too many problems now at hand to solve than to waste time on what will happen when fascism reaches us in full bloom. It is a very poor policy for any man to predict anything. Predictions don't come out as predicted. Therefore, with me, the article was a propaganda that makes good reading for a minority group. Then too, coming from a young white Texas writer makes it more interesting and fantastic. But the article has no real value or merit.

He speaks of "Negro Culture." There is no such thing. Culture is not a racial issue, but the infusion of the actions, patterns or ways of all races of a certain area. The races found in a given area make up that particular culture. The article reminds one of the onward rush of more slavery days for the Negro. Such a thing is not possible in this day and time. No thinking Negro would think of such a reversion. In fact such a time could have happened perhaps in the days of Coolidge and Hoover, but now the Negro's attention is focused on the new Social Order. He is concerned with getting his share of the New Deal. The Negro writers, or those who write articles about Negroes are guilty of magnifying the issue. Fascism is not mono-racial. It knows no particular race. It is striking at all races, but it can not succeed. The world is too radical to be subdued by fascism. So the article is a very absurd one. It has no real fundamental basis for being uttered.

DEADERICK F. JENKINS

Los Angeles, Calif.

Haitian Writer in Jail

To the Editor of The Crisis: Jacques Romain, poet and novelist of color, and the finest living Haitian writer, has just been sentenced at Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to two years in jail for circulating there a French magazine of Negro liberation called the *Cri des Negres*. Jacques Romain is a young man of excellent European education formerly occupying a high post in the Haitian government, and greatly respected by intellectuals as an outstanding man of letters. He is one of the very few upper class Haitians who understands and sympathizes with the plight of the oppressed peasants of his island home, and who has attempted to write about and to remedy the pitiful conditions of ninety per cent of the Haitian people exploited by the big coffee monopolies, and the manipulations of foreign finance in the hands of the National City Bank of New York.

As a fellow writer of color, I call upon all writers and artists of whatever race who believe in the freedom of words and of the human spirit, to immediately protest to the President of Haiti and to the nearest Haitian Consulate the uncalled for and unmerited sentence to prison of Jacques Romain, one of the few, and by far the most talented of the literary men of Haiti.

Carmel, California Langston Hughes

Against Timidity

To the Editor of The Crisis: When anyone suggests or urges Negroes to take positive action in their own behalves, and when this positive action meets the resistance by whites, as it always shall, isn't it odd that there is ever ready, timid individuals or groups, with the inferiority and defeatist complexes who predict defeat with the direct consequences before the action is initiated? Negroes have been made to feel that despite their great numbers in some sections of the country, they are entirely impotent—entirely incapable of doing the slightest thing in their own behalf.

In the Legion meetings and on patriotic holidays we often see Negro World War veterans with their breasts ablaze with medals of extreme heroism, bravery, and glory and yet this man is denied the fundamental rights of citizenship. Why? One reason is because this same Negro fire eater who did not hesitate to engage and whip ten Germans single-handed for someone else, would flee in terror if a handful of cowardly whites in a small town say "All you 'Niggers' leave town by sundown." Occasionally a Negro individual puts up a determined fight and he is not further molested.

Why must Negroes flee? Where can they go? They cannot hide from their color. The five thousand Negroes lynched in the last fifty years is proof of what cowardice gets as a reward.

Primitive man fought savagely, tooth and nail, that threatened his home or women. Yet, for him, replacement was a simple matter. Negroes owning property and vanishing citizenship rights not so easily acquired, surely must fight to save them if fighting could defeat the general contempt held by other races for the Negro because of his excessive timidity, humility, servility, apparent general lack of race pride, and his disinclination to fight and sacrifice in his own behalf.

Chicago, Ill. Castine A. Davis

A Letter from Texas

To the Editor of the Crisis: The money order which you will find enclosed in this letter, to the amount of one dollar and seventy-five cents ($1.75), is to pay for a year's subscription to The Crisis and a copy of James Weldon Johnson's book, "Negro Americans, What Now?." Please let my subscription begin with the December issue and accept my sincere thanks for the November issue which you sent me after my subscription ran out.

Perhaps you would like to know what happens to this copy of The Crisis. After I read it I lend it to the teacher of the Negro High School in this little country town. Notice I said *the* teacher. One for the grades and one for the high school department. After she reads it I leave it on the central reading table of my high school library where my students may read it. And I am pleased to notice often that some one is reading one of the Negro magazines. I take *Opportunity*, too. Most of my students have never heard of a Negro publication, but I am sure that they won't be as old as I was when discovering Negro publications for the first time. It is a pleasure to me to give them an opportunity to overcome some of their great ignorance of colored people. When it is possible to relate any of the material in these magazines to the subject matter of my courses in modern European History, Economics, and Sociology, I make a sincere use of it.

It is a pleasure to me to do what I can in my small way to show my resentment of our injustice to "you all," and if you have any suggestions, please feel free to send them to me.

————, Texas

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By Waring Cuney

Cafe Chantant

Night after night
They make the rounds,
Men in full dress clothes
Ladies in evening gowns,
Gay laughing souls
Who come to chat and dine,
Because they know
Sadness will go
After a glass of wine.

Your Singing

If I am sad when you come to sing,
It seems foolish to weep
For any thing.
If I am gay when you bring your song,
I know my heart will break
Before long.

Promise

Some day, weary of winds and waves
Sick of the sea's clear skies,
I shall come home to the heart break
In your tearless eyes, some day.

Anti-Lynching Bill

(*Continued from page* 43)

and make it apply equally to all colors, races and creeds of people.

Eugene B. Crowe, Indiana

In answer to your request for a statement of my views on anti-lynching legislation, I am glad to say that I am very much in favor of such legislation. It will have my hearty support during the next session of Congress.

Ernest Lundeen, Minnesota

I have always supported legislation of this type and intend to give my hearty support to this or any similar measure in the next session of Congress.

Clifford R. Hope, Kansas

I favor the idea of an anti-lynching bill.

Fred C. Gilchrist, Iowa

I certainly do favor passage of anti-lynching legislation. In fact, so strongly do I feel on the subject, that early in the last session of Congress, I introduced a bill of my own calling for the elimination of the crime of lynching. I gave my support to the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill, and assure you that this legislation, or similar legislation, will continue to have my deepest interest and hearty support.

Herman P. Kopplemann, Connecticut

In reply to your letter of November 14th, beg to advise you that I favor the passage of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill.

James Wolfenden, Pennsylvania

I will work and vote for the enactment of an adequate anti-lynching bill. Mob violence from time to time seems to take the helm. Recently a number of men have been lynched while lawfully imprisoned and awaiting trial. This is a great wrong. Also great danger lurks in the abandonment of constitutional law and order in the resort of mob rule. Mobs are dangerous. They lack judgment. They are brutal. They provoke anarchy; might, perhaps, ignite the flame of bloody revolution. It is but a step from taking lives of criminals by mob violence to taking property from those who possess by those who are hungry and unemployed.

Stephen M. Young, Ohio

In reply to your letter of November 14th, relative to the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, I wish to state that I am more than willing to support such legislation.

Matthew A. Dunn, Pennsylvania

In view of the fact that I am pressed for time, I will simply state that you may count on me and my support of any anti-lynching bill presented to the Congress.

L. T. Marshall, Ohio

In reply to your letter of November 14th regarding the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, I wish to state that I am in favor of this bill and expect to support it at the coming session.

F. J. Sisson, New York

Replying to your letter of the 14th in which you ask for an expression of opinion from me regarding the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, please be advised that I shall vote for this measure if and when it comes before the House of Representatives. Believing that due process of law should be resorted to under any and all circumstances, I naturally feel that no more worthy cause could engage the attention of Congress or anybody else than to stamp out the crime and disgrace of lynching.

Roy O. Woodruff, Michigan

I have always been favorable to such legislation as would be effective in suppressing the curse of lynching and to that end introduced a bill myself in the

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last session of Congress; I shall be happy to re-introduce this bill in the hope that it or some other measure may be brought to enactment during the 74th Congress.

U. S. GUYER, Kansas

Please be assured that the colored voters will find in me one who will support any sound legislation against the present unjustifiable lynchings, particularly of the colored people.

LEO E. ALLEN, Illinois

I desire to express my sincere interest in and support of any reasonable statute if it will assist in securing the elimination of lynching. Because of this practice millions of Americans have had to hang their heads in shame before the world.

G. M. GILLETTE, Iowa

Replying to yours of the 14th inst. you are informed that I am in favor of the passage of an anti-lynching bill along the lines of the Costigan-Wagner measure and favor federal aid to the states in suppressing lynching.

EDWARD A. KENNEY, New Jersey

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